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The Life of the Mask

BY HAROLD MAC GRATH

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CHAPTER I.

The Voice in the Fog.

Out of the unromantic night, out of the somber blurring January fog, came a voice lifted in song, a soprano, rich, full and round, young yet matured, sweet and mysterious as a night-bird's, haunting and elusive as the murmur of the sea in a shell; a air from La Fille de Madame Angot, light opera long since forgotten in New York. Hillard, genuinely astonished, lowered his pipe and listened. To sit dreaming by an open window, even in this unlovely first month of the year, in that grim, unhandsome city which boasts of its riches and still accepts with smug content its rows upon rows of ugly architecture, to sit dreaming, then, of red-tiled roofs, of cloud-caressed hills, of terraced vineyards, of cypresses in their dark aloofness, is not out of the natural order of things; but that into this idle and pleasant dream there should enter so divine a voice, living, reeling, pulsing, this was not ordinary at all.

And Hillard was glad that the room was in darkness. He rose eagerly and peered out. But he saw no one, across the street the arc-lamp burned dimly, like an opal in the matrix, while of architectural outlines not one remained, the fog having kindly obliterated them.

The Voice rose and sank and soared again, drawing nearer and nearer. It was joyous and unrestrained, and there was youth in it, the touch of spring and the breath of flowers. The music was Lecocq's, that is to say, French; but the tongue was of a country which Hillard knew to be the garden of the world. Presently he observed a shadow emerge from the yellow mist, to come within the circle of light, which, faint as it was, limned it against the nothingness beyond the form of a woman. She walked directly under his window.

As the invisible comes suddenly out of the future to assume distinct proportions which either make or mar us, so did this unknown cantatrice come out of the fog that night and enter into Hillard's life, to readjust his ambitions, to divert its aimless course, to give impetus to it, and a directness which hitherto it had not known.

"Ah!"

He leaned over the sill at a perilous angle, the bright coal of his pipe pilling comet-wise to the area-way below. He was only subconscious of having spoken; but this syllable was sufficient to spoil the enchantment. The voice ceased abruptly, with an odd break. The singer looked up, possibly her astonishment surpassed even that of her audience. For a few minutes she had forgotten that she was in New York, where romance may be found only in the book-shops; she had forgotten that it was night, a damp and chill forlorn night; she had forgotten the pain in her heart; there had been only a great and irresistible longing to sing.

Though she raised her face, he could distinguish no feature, for the light was behind. However, he was a man who made up his mind quickly. Brunette or blonde, beautiful or otherwise, it needed but a moment to find out. Even as this decision was made he was in the upper hall, taking the stairs two at a bound. He ran out into the night, bareheaded. Up the street he saw a flying shadow. Plainly she had anticipated his impulse and the curiosity behind it. Even as he gave chase the shadow melted in the fog, as ice melts in running waters, as flame dissolves in sunshine. She was gone. He cupped his ear with his hand; in vain, there came no sound as of pattering feet; there was nothing but fog and silence.

"Well, if this doesn't beat the Dutch!" he murmured.

He laughed disappointedly. It did not matter that he was three and thirty; he still retained youth enough to feel chagrined at such a trivial defeat. Here had been something like a genuine adventure, and it had slipped like water through his clumsy fingers.

"Deuce take the fog! But for that I'd have caught her."

But reason promptly asked him what he should have done had he caught the singer. Yes, supposing he had, what excuse would he have had to offer? Denial on her part would have been simple, and righteous indignation at being accosted on the street simpler still. He had not seen her face, and doubtless she was aware of this fact. Thus, she would have had all the weapons for defense and he not one for attack. But though reason argued well, it did not dislodge his longing. He would have been perfectly happy to have braved even indignation for a single glance at her face. He walked back, lighting his pipe. Who could she be? What peculiar whimsical freak had sent her singing past his window at one o'clock of the morning? A grand opera singer, returning home from a late supper? But he dismissed this opinion even as he advanced it. He knew something about grand opera singers. They attend late suppers, it is true, but they ride home in luxurious carriages and never risk their golden voices in this careless if romantic fashion. And in New York nobody took the trouble to serenade anybody else, unless paid in advance and armed with a police permit. As for being a comic opera star, he refused to admit the possibility; and relegated this well-satisfied constellation to the darks of limbo. He had heard a voice.

A vast shadow loomed up in the middle of the street, presently to take upon itself the solid outlines of a policeman who came lumbering over to add or subtract his quota of interest in the affair. Hillard wisely stopped and waited for him, pulling up the collar of his jacket, as he began to note that there was a winter's tang to the fog.

"Hi, what's all this?" the policeman called out roughly.

"To what do you refer?" Hillard counter-questioned, puffing. He slipped his hands into the pockets of his jacket.

"I heard a woman singin', that's what!" explained the guardian of the law.

"So did I."

"Oh, you did, huh?"

"Certainly. It is patent that my ears are as good as yours."

"Huh! See her?"

"For a moment," Hillard admitted.

"Well, we can't have none o' this in the streets. It's disorderly."

"My friend," said Hillard, rather annoyed at the policeman's tone, "you don't think for an instant that I was directing this operetta?"

"Think? Where's your hat?"

Hillard ran his hand over his head. The policeman had him here. "I did not bring it out."

"Too warm and summery, huh? It don't look good. I've been watchin' these parts fer a leddy. They call her Leddy Lightfinger; an' she has some o' the gents done to a pulp when it comes to liftin' jools an' trinkets. Somebody fergits to lock the front door, an' she finds it out. Why did you come out without yer lid?"

"Just forgot it, that's all."

"Which way'd she go?"

"You'll need a map and a searchlight. I started to run after her myself. I heard a voice from my window; I saw a woman; I made for the street; niente!"

"Huh?"

"Niente, nothing!"

"Oh! I see; Dago. Seems to me now that this woman was singin' I-taly-an, too." They were nearing the light, and the policeman gazed intently at the hatless young man. "Why, it's Mr. Hillard! I'm surprised. Well, well! Some day I'll run in a bunch o' these chorus leddies, jes' fer a lesson. They git lively at the restaurants over on Broadway, an' thin they raise the dead with their singin', which, often as not, is anythin' but singin'. An' here it is after one."

"But this was not a chorus lady," replied Hillard, thoughtfully reaching into his vest for a cigar.

"Sure, an' how do you know?" with renewed suspicions.

"The lady had a singing voice."

"Huh! They all think alike about that. But mebbe she wasn't bad at the business. Anyhow——"

"It was rather out of time and place, eh?" helpfully.

"That's about the size of it. This Leddy Lightfinger is a case. She has us all thinkin' on our nights off. Clever an' edjicated, an' jabbers in half a dozen tongues. It's a thousan' to the man who jugs her. But she don't sing; at least, they ain't any report to that effect. Perhaps your leddy was jes' larkin' a bit. But it's got to be stopped."

Hillard passed over the cigar, and the policeman bit off the end, nodding with approval at such foresight. The young man then proffered the coal of his pipe and the policeman took his light therefrom, realizing that after such a peace-offerin~ there was nothing for him to do but move on. Yet on dismal lonesome nights, like this one, it is a godsend and a comfort to hear one's own voice against the darkness. So he lingered.

"Didn't get a peek at her face?"

"Not a single feature. The light was behind her." Hillard tapped one toe and then the other.

"An' how was she dressed?"

"In fog, for all I could see."

"On the level now, didn't you know who she was?" The policeman gave Hillard a sly dig in the ribs with his club.

"On my word!"

"Some swell, mebbe."

"Undoubtedly a lady. That's why it looks odd, why it brought me into the street. She sang in classic Italian. And what's more, for the privilege of hearing that voice again, I should not mind sitting on this cold curb till the milkman comes around in the morning."

"That wouldn't be fer long," laughed the policeman, taking out his watch and holding it close to the end of his cigar. "Twenty minutes after one. Well, I must be gittin' back to me beat. An' you'd better be goin' in; it's cold. Good night."

"Good night," Hillard responded cheerfully.

"Say, what's I-taly-an fer good night?" still reluctant to go on.

"Buona notte."

"Bony notty; huh, sounds like Chinese fer rheumatism. Been to Italy?"

"I was born there," patiently.

"No! Why, you're no Dago!"

"Not so much as an eyelash. The stork happened to drop the basket there, that's all."

"Ha! I see. Well, Ameriky is good enough fer me an' mine," complacently.

"I dare say!"

"An' if this stogy continues t' behave, we'll say no more about the vanishin' leddy." And with this the policeman strolled off into the fog, his suspicions in nowise removed. He knew many rich young bachelors like Hillard. If it wasn't a chorus lady, it was a prima donna, which was not far in these degenerate days from being the same thing.

Hillard regained his room and leaned with his back to the radiator. He had an idea. It was rather green and salad, but as soon as his hands were warm he determined to put this idea into immediate use. The Voice had stirred him deeply, stirred him with the longing to hear it again, to see the singer's face, to learn what extraordinary impulse had loosed the song. Perhaps it was his unspoken loneliness striving to call out against this self-imposed isolation; for he was secretly lonely, as all bachelors must be who have passed the Rubicon of thirty. He made no analysis of this new desire, or rather this old desire, newly awakened. He embraced it gratefully. Such is the mystery and power of the human voice; this one, passing casually under his window, had awakened him.

Never the winter came with its weary round of rain and fog and snow that his heart and mind did not fly over the tideless southern sea to the land of his birth if not of his blood, Sorrento, that jewel of the ruddy cliffs! There was fog outside his window, and yet how easy it was to picture the turquoise bay of Naples itself, like a string of its own pink coral, lying crescent-wise on the distant strand; there were the snowcaps fading on the far horizon; the bronzed fishermen and their wives, a sheer two hundred feet below him, puling in their listening nets; the amethyst isles of Capri and Ischia eternally hanging midway between the blue of the sky and the blue of the sea; and there, towering menacingly above all this melting beauty, the dark, grim pipe of Vulcan. How easily, indeed he could see all these things.

With a quick gesture of both hands, Latin, always Latin, he crossed the room to a small writing desk, turned on the lights and sat down. He smiled as he took up the pen to begin his composition. Not one chance in a thousand. And after several attempts he realized that the letter he had in mind was not the simplest to compose. There were a dozen futile efforts before he produced anything like satisfaction. Then he filled out a small check. A little later he stole downstairs, round the corner to the local branch of the postoffice, and returned. It was only a blind throw, such as dicers sometimes make in the dark. But chance loves her true gamester, and to him she made a faithful servant.

"I should be sorely tempted," he mused, picking up a novel and selecting a comfortable angle in the Morris, "I should be sorely tempted to call any other man a silly ass. Leddy Lightfinger—it would be a fine joke if my singer turned out to be that irregular person."

He fell to reading, but it was not long before he yawned. He shied the book into a corner, drew off his boots and cast them into the hall. A moment after his valet appeared, gathered up the boots, tucked them under his arm, and waited.

"I want nothing, Giovanni. I have only been around to the postoffice.

"I heard the door open and close four times, signore."

"It was I each time. If this fog does not change into rain, I shall want my riding breeches tomorrow morning."

"It is always raining here," Giovanni remarked sadly.

"Not always; there are pleasant days in the spring and summer. It is because this is not Italy. The Hollander wonders how any reasonable being can dwell in a country where they do not drink gin. It's home, Giovanni; rain pelts you from a different angle here. There is nothing more; you may go. It is 2 o'clock, and you are dead for sleep."

But Giovanni only bowed; he did not stir.

"Well?" inquired his master.

"It is seven years ago, signore."

"So it is; seven this coming April."

"I am now a citizen of this country; I obey its laws; I vote."

"Yes, Giovanni, you are an American citizen, and you should be proud of it."

Giovanni smiled. "I may return to my good Italia without danger."

"That depends. If you do not run across any official who recognizes you."

Giovanni spread out his hands. "Official memory seldom lasts so long as seven years. The signore has crossed four times in this period."

"I would gladly have taken you each time, as you know."

"Oh, yes! But in two or three years the police do not forget. In seven it is different."

"Ah!" Hillard was beginning to understand the trend of this conversation. "So, then, you wish to return?"

"Yes, signore. I have saved a little money," modestly.

"A little?" Hillard laughed. "For seven years you have received fifty American dollars every month, and out of it you do not spend as many copper centesimi. I am certain that you have 20,000 lire tucked away in your stocking; a fortune!"

"I buy the blacking for the signore's boots," gravely.

Hillard saw the twinkle in the black eyes. "I have never," he said truthfully, "asked you to black my boots."

"Penance, signore, penance for my sins; and I am not without gratitude. There was a time when I had rather cut off a hand than black a boot; but all that is changed. We of the Sabine Hills are proud, as the signore knows. We are Romans out there; we despise the cities; and we do not hold out our palms for the traveler's pennies. I am a peasant, but always remember the blood of the Caesars. Who can say? Besides, I have held a sword for the church. I owe no allegiance to the Puny House of Savoy!" There was no twinkle in the black eyes now; there was a ferocious gleam. It died away quickly, however; the squared shoulders drooped, and there was a deprecating shrug. "Pardon, signore; this is far away from the matter of boots. I grow boastful; I am an old man and should know better. But does this signore return to Italy in the spring?"

"I don't know, Giovanni. I don't know. But what's on your mind?"

"Nothing new, signore," with eyes cast down to hide the returning lights.

"You are a bloodthirsty ruffian!" said Hillard shortly. "Will time never soften the murder in your heart?"

"I am as the good God made me. I have seen through blood, and time cannot change that. Besides, the Holy Father will do something for one who fought for the cause."

"He will certainly not countenance bloodshed, Giovanni."

"He can absolve it. And as you say, I am rich, as riches go in the Sabine Hills."

"I was in hopes you had forgotten."

"Forgotten? The signore will never understand; it is his father's blood. She was so pretty and youthful, my heart, heart of my heart! And innocent! She sang like the nightingale. She was always happy. Up with the dawn, to sleep with the stars. We were alone, she and I. The sheep supported me and she sold her roses and dried lavender. It was all so beautiful—till he came. Ah, had he loved her! But a plaything, a pastime! The signore never had a daughter. What is she now? A nameless thing in the streets?" Giovanni raised his arms tragically; the boots clattered to the floor. "Seven years! It is a long time for one of my blood to wait!"

"Enough!" cried Hillard; but there was a hardness in his throat at the sight of the old man's tears. Where was the proud and stately man, the black-bearded shepherd in faded blue linen, in picturesque garters, with his reed-like pipe, that he, Hillard, had known in his boyhood days? Surely not here. Giovanni had known the great wrong, but Hillard could not in conscience's name foster the spirit which demanded an eye for an eye. So he said: "I can give you only my sympathy for your loss, but I abhor the spirit of revenge which can not find satisfaction in anything but murder."

Giovanni once more picked up the boots. "I shall leave the signore in the spring."

"As you please," said Hillard gently.

Giovanni bowed gravely and made off with his boots. Hillard remained staring thoughtfully at the many-colored squares in the rug under his feet. It would be lonesome with Giovanni gone. The old man had evidently made up his mind. . . . But the Woman with the Voice, would she reply to it? What a foundation for a romance! . . . Bah! He prepared for bed.

To those who reckon earthly treasures as the only thing worth having, John Hillard was a fortunate young man. That he wag without kith or kin was considered by many as an additional piece of good fortune. Born in Sorrento, in one of the charming villas which sweep down to the very brow of the cliffs, educated in Rome up to his fifteenth year; taken at that age from the dreamy, drifting land and thrust into the noisy, bustling life which was his inheritance; fatherless and motherless at twenty; a college youth who was forever mixing his Italian with his English and being laughed at; hating tumult and loving quiet; warm-hearted and impulsive, yet meeting only habitual reserve from his compatriots whichever way he turned; it is not to be wondered at that he preferred the land of his birth to that of his blood.

All this might indicate an artistic temperament, the ability to do petty things grandly; but Hillard had escaped this. He loved his Raphaels, his Titians, his Veroneses, his Rubenses, without any desire to make indifferent copies of them; he admired his Dante, his Petrarch, his Goldoni, without the wish to imitate them. He was full of sentiment without being sentimental, a poet who thought but never indited verses. His faher's blood was in his veins, that is to say, the salt of restraint; thus, his fortune grew and multiplied. The strongest and reddest corpuscle had been the gift of his mother. She had left him the legacy of loving all beautiful things in moderation, the legacy of gentleness of charity, of strong loves and frank hatreds, of humor, of living out in the open, of dreaming great things and accomplishing none of them.

The old house in which he lived was not in the fashionable quarter of the town; but that did not matter. Nor did it vary externally from any of its unpretentious neighbors. Inside, however, there were treasures priceless and unique. There was no woman in the household; he might smoke in any room he pleased. A cook, a butler, and a valet were the sum total of his retinue. In appearance he resembled many another clean-cut, clean-living American gentleman.

Giovanni sought his own room at the end of the hall, squatted on a low stool and solemnly began the business of blacking his master's boots. He was still as lean and tall as a Lombardy poplar, this handsome old Roman. His hair was white; there was now no black beard on his face, which was as brown and creased as Spanish levant; and some of the fullness was gone from his chest and arms; but for all that he carried his fifty-odd years lightly. He worked swiftly tonight, but his mind was far away from his task.

There was a pitiful story, commonplace enough. A daughter, a loose-living officer, a knife flung from a dark alley, and sudden flight to the south. Hillard had found him wandering through the streets of Naples, hiding from the carabinieri as best he could. Hillard contrived to smuggle him on the private yacht of a friend. He found a peasant who was reconsidering the advisability of digging sewers and laying railroad ties in the Eldorado of the west. A few pieces of silver, and the passport changed hands. With this Giovanni blandly lied his way into the United States. After due time he applied for citizenship, and through Hillard's influence it was accorded him. He solemnly voted when elections came round, and hoarded his wages, like the thrifty man he was. Some day he would return to Rome, or Naples, or Venice, or Florence, as the case might be; and then!

When the boots shone flawlessly, he carried them to Hillard's door and softly tiptoed back. He put his face against the cold window. He, too, had heard the Voice. How his heart hurt him with its wild hope! But only for a moment. It was not the voice he hungered for. The words were Italian, but he knew that the woman who sang them was not!

(To Be Continued.)

A One-Legged Soldier.

London Evening Standard.

A soldier with only one leg would seem to be an anomalty, but the French town of Ranbaix, can boast of one in the person of Alexander Murth, a reservist of the 161st infantry regiment. Murth broke his leg some months ago, owing to an accident while digging a well. The limb was amputated and replaced by a wooden substitute.

Recently Mirth, was called upon to undergo the usual 17 days of training at Mathel. He duly presented himself, expecting to be discharged, but to his surprise was detained at the barracks and set to mending shoes, despite his ignorance of the craft. The colonel even threatened him once with eight days "cells" because he was not prompt enough in rising to the salute.

NOTABLE EVENTS OF THE YEAR PASSED IN REVIEW

By Arthur I. Street,

Editor of The Pandex of the News.

Discovery of North Pole and Definite Adoption of Air Flight Two Most Striking Features of a Twelve Months of Human Activity.

When all the political events of the year are forgotten—all the tariff squabbling, Roosevelt's retirement, Taft's accession and spectacular trip across the country, culminating in his meeting with President Diaz, of Mexico, the defeat of Tammany in New York, of Tom Johnson in Ohio, Gibboney in Philadelphia, and Heney in San Francisco—the 12 months of 1909 will undoubtedly be remembered in history for two things: the aeroplane and the discovery of the North Pole. Epic achievements were made in both of these respects, and the future must look back to 1909 as the year of their joint happening.

Of course, the aeroplane had made great progress in the preceding year, but it has been the annual period just closed that has brought the invention to a point where its definite adoption into the transportation system of the human race is no longer in doubt. Not only were there many so-called aviation meets, such as those at Brescia in Italy, Rheims in France, Johannisthal in Germany, and the Hudson-Fulton centenary in New York, at which various demonstrations were made as to the limits of developments thus far reached, Wilbur Wright, at the centenary celebrations, startling all New York city by successfully negotiating a flight from Governor's island, in the bay, up the Hudson river to Grant's tomb, and back again, each time, for the first time in the history of the world, guiding an aeroplane over warships. But under the direction of the Frenchman, Louis Bleriot, the monoplane form of aeroplaine crossed the British channel from France on July 24, electrifying the world; six days later Orville Wright, with one passenger, at Fort Meyer, made a five-mile flight across country, at the rate of 42 miles an hour, again electrifying the world; the German, Count Zeppelin, made successful flights with his dirigible balloon from the extreme south of Germany to Berlin, and more or less irregular passenger service has been inaugurated along the Rhine provinces by enthusiastic supporters of Zeppelin. Indeed, in the matter of practical application of aerial navigation, the Germans and French took much the same lead they did years ago in the matter of the trolley. Whether they will retain the leadership, of course, remains to be seen. For, while there has as yet been no attempt made in the United States to effect air transportation on a commercial basis, many companies were organized during 1909 for this purpose, and the outlook is for many more during the ensuing year.

To October, for instane, Glenn H. Curtiss, who proved himself during the year to be the most formidable rival of the Wright brothers, secured lands and buildings in Schenectady, N. Y., and announced that he would proceed at once to the general manufacture of aeroplanes. The Wright brothers, however, confined themselves almost entirely to developing the speed, elevation, and lifting power of their machine, leaving the commercial development for a later day. One of the brothers, Orville, succeeded in reaching a height of more than 1,600 feet during a flight in Germany, and Lapham, a Frenchman, using a Wright machine, circled the Eiffel tower in Paris, which is 1,000 feet high. Both at home and abroad the Wrights carried one and two passengers on their aeroplane without difficulty, and toward the end of the year made numerous ascensions with the use of lifting-weights. They also won the prizes, amounting to $30,000, offered by the U. S. army for a practical aeroplane, and then undertook the tutoring of army officers in the use of the machines—which recalls the fact that probably the most important practical bearing of aviation progress during the year was the demonstration of its importance in war.

Virtually all the principal countries of the world used some form of airship in the annual maneuvers, even Russia not being excepted. In Germany, the dirigible balloon accomplished some important results in scouting, and, after the maneuvers were over, executed a dramatic surprise against two of the strongest forts in the empire. In Italy, the army signalized its appreciation of the value of the dirigible by ordering an entire fleet to be constructed. And when Bleriot crossed the British Channel and Zeppelin made his air tour along the highly fortified Rhine provinces, the feelings seemed to come home to military strategists throughout the world that an entirely new era in warfare was approaching. England became convinced that her "splendid isolation" had been terminated; both France and Germany realized that all their massive frontier preparations against each other might ultimately be rendered futile, and the bird-like ease with which Wilbur Wright took his aeroplane over the foreign warships, assembled in New York harbor for the Hudson-Fulton centenary, did not lessen the thought that man's conquest of the air is likely to change his methods of warfare enormously. Naturally, under such circumstances, military men directed themselves with some vigor to the discovery of means of destroying the airship and aeroplane while in the air. Various nations, including our own, conducted experiments of shooting at captive balloons with large and small artillery; the Krupps invented a gun especially designed for airship destroying; but up to the close of the year nothing definite in this direction had been accomplished.

A Goal Reached

Thus, all through the year, the world was thrilled from time to time by performances of noteworthy feats in the air. But the excitement caused by the Wrights, the Bleriots, the Zeppelins, the Lathams, paled into comparative insignificance when, on September 1, came the startling announcement that Dr. Frederick A. Cook, of Brooklyn, had discovered the North Pole on April 21, 1908, and five days later Lieutenant Commander Robert E. Peary returned to the Labradorean outposts of civilization with the news that he had located the Pole on April 6, 1909—adding that to him accrued the honor of being the first man ever to stand at the tip of the world, since he could prove that Dr. Cook was fabricating.

Instantly, there resulted that extraordinary controversy between the adherents of Peary and Cook which set the entire world by the ears. Peary's statement that he has been to the Pole has been O. K'd by scientists generally, he having had his polar records approved in October by a committee appointed by the National Geographic society to examine them. The University of Copenhagen authorities, to whom Dr. Cook promised to submit his records when, on his return to civilization by way of Denmark, he was acclaimed the Pole's discoverer by that country's king and leading men and women generally, have officially stated that they have found no evidence that Dr. Cook reached the Pole.

Until the world was treated to the truly unique situation of two Americans returning from Arctic fastnesses within a few days of each other and asserting their rights to immortal fame as the Pole's true discoverer, interest in exploration activities had been centered in the remarkable achievements of Lieut. E. H. Shackelton, of the British navy. On March 12 came the startling announcement that he had succeeded in penetrating, after a series of most extraordinary hardships, to within 112 miles of the South Pole—farthest south. Quite naturally, the news of the actual discovery of the other end of the world overshadowed considerably the glory of this wonderful feat of our British cousin. On the other hand, the mere fact that the North Pole had been discovered by America awakened in England a strong desire to be accredited in history with the discovery of the South Pole, and an antarctic expedition, backed by British funds and made up entirely of British subjects, is now being equipped with the object of placing the Union Jack at the southern tip of the world. Hence, if this particular expedition gains its goal, the triumph of human endurance over the elements at the South Pole will have resulted clearly from a zest of emulation born of an epochal event of the year just closing.

Downfall of Absolutism

Unlike most of the great earth discoveries made since history began, the conquest of the North Pole bids fair never to be a cause of armed contention between nations, since apparently the pole itself is set in the midst of high seas, and, certainly, in the center of a most forbidding climate. Primarily, its acquisition was one of peace—which is more than can be said of the year's epochal developments in Turkey, where the fate of an empire was apparently decided forever by one of the most remarkable revolutions known to modern history.

The year before the party of progress in Turkey, known as the Young Turks, had wrested a constitution from the Sultan Abdul Hamid, who had grudgingly, though smilingly, sworn fealty to it. But no sooner had he done so than it became evident to the Young Turks that he was plotting for the overthrow of the constitution and a return of absolutism, and, when all other means to show the sultan that he was "monkeying with a buzz saw" had failed, the Young Turks, on April 13, set the Third Army corps, mobilized at Salonika, on the march against Constantinople. With admirable strategy, its commander, Chevket Pasha, proceeded to and invested the capital. Then, on the 23rd, he captured Stamboul, the old Turkish quarter of the city. Pera, the foreign quarter, was taken next, with tourists witnessing the fighting in the streets, and, last, Yildiz Kiosk and the sultan himself fell into the hands of the Young Turk forces.

It was on the 25th that the sultan's palace guard surrendered. Promptly the following day Abdul Hamid was deposed, the Sheik ul Islam, the high priest of Mohammedanism, drawing the indictment of treason against him—and with the old tyrant's banishment to and imprisonment in Salonika the terrors of absolutism, so far as the Turkish empire are concerned, probably came to an end for all time. Within an hour after the deposition of Abdul Hamid, the Turkish parliament met and chose Mohammed Reshad Effendi, brother of the old sultan, to be sultan, and on May 10th, as Mehamed V he was formally girded with constitutional government apparently "making good."

While the Young Turks were deposing Abdul Hamid only about 500 soldiers and a dozen non-combatants were killed. The most stormy and bloody aspect of the revolt was in Asia Minor, where extensive religious massacres said to have been instigated by the old sultan, in the hope of holding his throne, took place, about 20,000 Armenians being slain and numerous towns and villages laid waste by Mohammedan fanatics. The Powers were obliged to send their warships to the vicinity to protect their citizens, but fortunately the new government proved itself able to restore order and to punish offenders, and thus international complications were averted. Had the contrary been the case, the complications would undoubtedly have been serious. For, shortly prior to the Turkish revolt, Austro-Hungary, keenly alive to the internal troubles of Turkey, had disturbed the whole peace of the Balkans by suddenly disregarding the treaty of Berlin and seizing the provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, presumably in order to increase her access to the sea. Against this Turkey protested and eventually had to be silenced by a money indemnity. Also Servia protested, and that much more vehemently than did Turkey. Indeed, at one time, there was every evidence that the situation would develop into a war between Servia and Austro-Hungary.

Great War Scare

The great war scare of the year, however, centered around Germany and England, the apparent growing strain of relations between these two countries causing the entire civilized world to discuss almost daily throughout the year the possibilities of a war in which they would be the combatants. It is an undisputed fact that both Germany and England all through the year have been rushing naval construction and military preparations at

Continued on Page 3, First Column.

A CENT'S WORTH OF POWER

Some Things That Can Be Done With a Pinch of Electricity.

Harper's Weekly.

Probably few people have ever stopped to think what a power electricity is. If you have never thought the matter over it will be surprising as well as interesting to know what can be done with one cent's worth of this marvellous power.

On the average rate and discounts of the ordinary consumer, a cent's worth of electricity will operate a 12 inch fan for ninety minutes.

Will operate a sewing machine motor for three hours.

Will keep a six-pound electric flatiron hot for fifteen minutes.

Will make four cups of coffee in an electric coffee percolator.

Will keep an eight-inch disk stove hot for seven minutes, or long enough to cook a steak.

Will operate a luminous radiator for eight minutes.

Will bring to boil two quarts of water or operate the baby milk warmer twice.

Will make a Welsh rabbit in an electric chafing dish.

Will operate a 7-inch frying pan for twelve minutes.

Will keep a heating pad hot for two hours.

Will operate an electric griddle for eight minutes.

Will run the electric broiler for six minutes.

Will run a massage machine for nearly four hours.

Will keep the dentist's electric hammer and drill going for ninety minutes.

Will keep the foot warmer hot for a quarter of an hour.

Will run an electric pianola for one hour.

Will vulcanize a patch of an automobile tire.

Will heat an electric curling iron once a day for two weeks.

Will pump 250 gallons of water 100 feet high.

Will keep a big glue pot hot for an hour.

Will drive the electric clipper while shearing one horse.

Will raise ten tons twelve feet high with an electric crane in less than one minute.

Will raise a large passenger elevator five stories a minute.

Will brand electrically 150 hams.

Eastern Land Values.

A recent issue of the Wall Street Journal comments upon the rise which has been noted in the value of Eastern farm land, and it will not be surprising if the attention of investors shall be turned in that direction as strongly as toward the South and West.

A few years ago there was common complaint in New York as well as in New England on account of the abandonment of farms and the inability of the owners to obtain anything like an adequate revenue from them. But it is probable that in the near future little of this will be heard.

The high price of farm products as well as of Western land is having the natural effect of forcing men to recognize that with proper management an Eastern farmer should find agriculture and horticulture profitable industries. Proximity to large markets suggests that the lack of profit in Eastern farming has been due in some measure to bad management or lack of industry, and if the future shows this to be true, Eastern farm values will continue to advance. The old states may then regain some of their lost prestige as contributors to the country's agricultural wealth.—Denver Republican.

Working Girls Best Wives.

"The working girl makes the best wife in the world."

This is the firm assertion of Miss Mary MacArthur, president of the Women's Trade Union League of Great Britain.

Miss MacArthur is a remarkable woman. Not yet thirty, she has been interested in trade unionism among women for more than ten years and has practically built up the English organization, of which she is president, and which now numbers fully 210,000 women. It is a very big and definite force in English labor movements.

And in defiance of all the doleful masculine prognostications that girls and women who work outside the home are thereby unfitted for the natural feminine functions of wifehood and motherhood, Miss MacArthur reiterates: "It is the working women who makes the best wives—and the best mothers, too," she adds composedly. —Kansas City Journal.

Narrow Streets of Great Yarmouth.

Great Yarmouth contains what is said to be the narrowest street in the world, known as Kitty Witches row, and its greatest width is fifty-six inches. Its entrance would seriously inconvenience a stout person trying to pass through it. Twenty-nine inches from wall to wall is all the room that can be spared in this part.

Yarmouth is a quaint old town containing many streets like Kitty Witches row. They are all called rows and are more picturesque than convenient. One hundred and forty-seven of these narrow streets of a length of over seven miles in all are to be found in the town—New Orleans States.

No Colds in Antarctic Region.

The Scotsman.

Lieut. Shackleton tells of a curious phenomenon of life in the Antarctic regions. The daily journey is, of course, taken under atmospheric conditions involving the extremest cold. The danger of what is called "catching cold" is increased by the fact that the toil of dragging sledges over miles of snow and broken ice lands the workers at the end of the day are in a condition of profuse perspiration.

Nevertheless, during the whole of their stay in the Antractic regions not a single one of the adventurers suffered from bodily infirmity ordinarily following on exposure to extreme cold. The peculiarity was the more marked in view of the fact that at the first port their vessel touched on the homeward voyage nearly every man, including the commander, had catarrh.

TAVERNAY

A TALE of THE RED TERROR

by Burton E Stevenson

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CHAPTER III.

I Fall Into a Pleasant Bondage.

"Then you are not ill!" my friend was saying, as I dismounted and drew near. "You are not dying! Thank God for that!"

"Ill!" echoed the lady. "Dying! Nonsense! Look at me!"

"You are adorable!" he cried, and kissed the hands he held in his.

"Sad I have been," she went on, blushing, but still gazing fondly up at him. "That was because you were away from me, in danger yonder. Yet I tried to be brave, for I knew that you were serving your country and that you would not forget me."

"Forget you!" he repeated, and my own heart warmed in sympathy as he gazed down at her, his eyes alight. Ah, here was no match pre-arranged, no marriage of convenience, but a true mating! So true that there could be about it no false pride, no dissimulation or pretense of indifference; so true that it was still the lover talking to his mistress, as well as the husband talking to his wife. And I looked at her with sudden interest. What was her secret? How had she kept her hold fresh upon his heart?

I know it is the custom in certain circles in the great cities to sneer at all this—to seek love anywhere but in the family circle; but we of the provinces are not like that. Do not think it. We live closer to the heart of things—closer to nature, closer to each other, closer to the good God—and I think we are sounder at core.

"But I had a message saying you were ill," he continued. "You did not send it, then?"

"No—but I bless the sender since it has brought you back to me."

"And not alone," he added, remembering my presence. "Permit me to present to you, madame, M. de Tavernay. I began by stealing his horse and ended by gaining his friendship. Be kind to him, Monsieur, this is my wife," Madame la Comtesse de Favras."

She held out her hand to me with a charming smile, but her eyes and thoughts were only for her husband, nor could I find it in my heart to blame her, for, beside him I was so crude, so ordinary, worth scarcely a passing glance. Indeed, I was myself somewhat confused at the revelation of my friend's distinguished title and bowed over her hand awkwardly enough.

"You are welcome, monsieur," she said. "At dinner, we must hear the story of these adventures. But you have, no doubt, been all day in the saddle—you need rest, refreshment. Come—only, first, you must meet my guest," and she led the way toward the terrace where her companion awaited us.

"What fortune!" cried M. le Comte, as he sprang up the steps, and in another moment he was kissing the cheek of a lady, young, divinely fair as I saw in the single glance I dared take at her, who blushed most becomingly as she received his salute.

"My dear," he added, "this is M. de Tavernay. I have already asked Madame la Comtesse to be kind to him; with you, I can only beg that you will not be cruel. M. de Tavernay, this is Mdlle. de Chambray, who permits you to kiss her hand."

As I bowed before her and touched her fingers with lips not wholly steady, I was suddenly conscious of the dust and travel-stains which covered me head to foot. She would think me ridiculous, no doubt; but when I summoned courage to glance up at her, I was astonished to see that her face was scarlet, and that she was staring at me with startled eyes. Then she withdrew her hand and turned hastily away, her shoulders shaking convulsively, and I felt my own cheeks grow red.

Luckily, our friends were too engrossed in each other to perceive this bit of comedy—or, perhaps, tragedy would, from my standpoint, be the better word. A moment later, my ears still burning, I stalked stiffly away after the man to whom I had been entrusted, through a vestibule, up a wide flight of stairs, and into a spacious room overlooking the gardens at the back of the house.

"Dinner is at eight," said the man. "If there is anything monsieur requires, he will ring the bell yonder," and, after unstrapping my portmanteau and glancing around to assure himself that everything was right, he left the room and closed the door behind him.

The instant I was alone, dignity and self-control fell from me like a mantle, and flinging myself into a chair, I stared blindly out through the open window. The garden was a formal one in the Italian style, not large, but elegantly planned, and sloping gently to the margin of the river, which seemed here both broad and deep. Beyond it was a tangle of trees and shrubbery, and farther away upon the side of a little hill were the white houses of a village, their windows bright with the rays of the setting sun.

But it was at none of these things I looked—thought I see them now as plainly as if they were here before me—for my eyes were turned inward at the tumult in my own bosom, and my brain was wondering numbly why it was that my life, heretofore so bright, had turned suddenly so grey; that the green valleys of the future had changed to sandy, barren wastes; that the very savor of living was as dust in my throat. I had glanced for an instant into a pair of startled eyes—and that instant had struck the boyish carelessness from my heart as with a blow.

But at last I shook the feeling off—or perhaps it was only the warm blood of youth asserting itself—and when the man came with the candles, I could proceed with my toilet with almost, if not quite, my old calmness. When it was finished, I turned to the glass, and contemplated the reflection there with some misgivings. Fresh the face undoubtedly was, and, if not handsome, at least not grotesque; but with the memory of my host before me, I thought it absurdly boyish. The figure, while erect enough, had not that easy poise I had marked in him, nor did the garments in which I had arrayed myself fall into those natural and graceful lines which somehow stamp the finished gentleman. As I stared gloomily at myself, I recalled the careless words of Sergeant Dubosq. Yes, he was right; he had hit the mark, I was too young, too pink and white, too much of the country.

Comforting myself as well as I could with the thought that time would remedy these defects, I turned away, opened the door and went down the

"THE MODERN WOMAN" GIVEN A SEVERE JOLT BY AUTHOR

New York, Dec. 23.—Mrs. Margaret Deland, the author, arraigned "the modern women" before the National League for the Civic Education of Women—an anti-suffragette association—in the ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria. A large audience of women heard the address.

Mrs. Deland was introduced by Mrs. Gilbert Jones, who, in praising the author's personality and work, said she was "not one bit indebted to the ballot for any of it."

Mrs. Jones spoke sarcastically of the "passionately noble" new woman and of her disrespect to the law, toward which she, "if you will forgive vulgar

You can have forty years to pay for an Improved, *Cultivated*, richly *Fertile* Farm in Oklahoma

and you can buy it at your own price.

Let me send you, at once, a complete description of hundreds of the best farms—most productive farms—to be sold on this plan. You can learn their appraised valuations. You can go and see these farms. Then you can pick out the one you *want* and buy it at a price which *you* think is *right*.

On paying the *actual* valuation of the improvements and *five per cent* of the purchase price of the *land* you can take immediate possession of a farm that will *make* you *rich*. And you can have 40 years—if you want it—to pay the balance.

Your own father or brother or best friend could hardly sell you a farm on more generous terms and *no one* could sell you *better land* on *any* terms. This land is

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now offered for sale by the state for the *first time*—and *last* time. In tracts of 160 acres it has been farmed by tenants of the state—cleared and put into cultivation, houses and barns and fences built, orchards planted, good roads graded. It is land of proven fertility—richly productive of all general farm products and affording unsurpassed opportunities also for dairying, stock raising and truck gardening.

First Sale Opens December 15th

There is no lottery, no speculation, no element of chance in the disposal of this land. It will be sold at auction—not more than 160 acres to one person. The first of the series of sales to be held in thirty-four counties will open in Chandler, Oklahoma, at the county courthouse, December 15, and continue daily, excepting legal holidays, up to and including January 7, within which time 361 tracts of 160 acres each will be sold. Sales at Shawnee, Oklahoma City, Chickasha and other points will follow the sale at Chandler.

This is one of those opportunities that come to men once in a lifetime. It's an opportunity such as can't come *more* than once. It's a case of take it now or *never*. If you are a farmer and want to get away from the worn-out soil where "values" are big and profits small, and want to get some of the *best* land in the world where you can *make* the *most*, write to me today and I will send you a full list of these farms and every detail of information about them.

If you are *not* a farmer, but if you want to get out of *life* all there is *in* it—now or *some* day—if you want to know what Oklahoma holds in store for men like *you*—then write to me today, tonight, and I will tell you all about this Big Chance. Don't put off writing. Write to me today. Address, L. M. ALLEN, Pass. Traffic Mgr., 153 La Salle Street Station, Chicago.

Low Rate Excursions to Chandler and other points southwest, on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Tickets good for three weeks, allowing ample time for inspection of land. Through trains from Chicago and St. Louis via

Rock Island Lines

stairs. Beyond the vestibule was the saloon, a circular marble room, extremely elegant and well-furnished, and, still beyond this, the drawing-room, with four large paintings of the French victories of 1744 upon the walls. There was no one in either room, and I was examining the paintings, which no doubt pictured events in which the father of my host had taken part, and which appeared to me of splendid execution, when I heard the rustling of skirts behind me. I turned to perceive Mdlle. de Chambray upon the threshold, and the fear of her ridicule was swept away in the burst of happiness at seeing her again.

"Oh, is it you M. de Tavernay?" she said, hesitating and coloring divinely.

"Yes, it is I, mademoiselle," I answered, trembling at this first time that she had ever addressed me.

"And alone!" she added with a quick glance about the room. "It is strange that Madame is not down."

"She and M. le Comte doubtless have much to say to each other," I hastened to explain for I, too, thought it strange. "It would be cruel to interrupt them."

"Yes—no doubt," she agreed, but she was plainly not convinced.

"Besides, I assure you that I am quite harmless," I ventured.

This time, she permitted her glance to dwell upon me for an instant, and I caught the perfect contour of her face.

"I am not so sure of that," she said, "unless your appearance is most deceptive. I think I would better join Madame," and she made a motion toward the door.

"If there is any oath I can swear, mademoiselle," I protested, "prescribe it—I will take it gladly. I will agree to sit here in this corner, if you wish it."

"Oh you will?" she said, and looked at me doubtfully, but with a glimmer of mischief in her eye.

"Yes, mademoiselle; I am capable even of that heroism."

"I hear that you surrendered rather easily this morning," she taunted.

"There was a pistol at my ear," I explained, "and the face of M. le Comte behind it. I saw no reason to throw away my life for nothing more important than a horse. I am doubly glad now that I was so sensible."

She looked at me, her brows uplifted.

"Life means more to me now than it did this morning," I hastened to explain. "Oh, vastly more. So I rejoice that I am not lying back there on the road with a bullet through me. Even had M. le Comte missed me, I should not be here."

"He would not have missed. A pistol in the hands of M. le Comte is a dangerous thing."

"I have never encountered but one thing more dangerous, mademoiselle."

"And that?"

"A pair of brown eyes, leveled at me by a person who knows their power," I answered, and trembled at my temerity.

But instead of being offended she burst into a peal of laughter and advanced into the room.

"Really, M. de Tavernay," she said, "I fear that you are not so harmless as you pretend."

"But nevertheless you will remain, mademoiselle; you owe that reparation."

"Reparation?" she repeated, with raised brows.

"For laughing at me. True, you turned away your face, but you could not conceal the quivering of your shoulders.

She colored deeply, and this time retreated in earnest toward the door.

"Oh, do not go," I pleaded. "I pardon you—it was nothing. Laugh at me again, if you wish, only do not go."

She hesitated, stopped, came back. "I do beg your pardon, monsieur," she said. "Believe me, it was not in the least at you I was laughing, but at a sudden thought—"

She stopped, evidently confused.

"Very well," I hastened to assure her. "I forgive and forget. Or, rather, I shall not forget, because you laugh adorably."

"In truth," she said, with just a touch of malice, "one would imagine you were straight from Versailles instead of—"

"Beaufort," I said, flushing a little.

"Ah, how does it happen you are so far from home?" she queried, bending upon me a look of raillery.

Then I remembered: my heart turned to lead in my bosom, and despite myself a groan burst from me in the first sharp agony of recollection.

"What is it, monsieur?" she questioned, instantly serious, and coming toward me quickly. "You are not ill?"

"Yes," I said hoarsely, dropping upon a seat. "I am very ill, mademoiselle—so ill that I fear I shall never make a recovery."

"Oh, horrible!" she cried, and sat down beside me and passed her handkerchief across my forehead—her handkerchief fragrant with I know not what intoxicating scent. "But a moment ago you were quite well, or seemed so. Is it the heart?"

"Yes, mademoiselle," I answered, rallying sufficiently to perceive that the situation was not without its advantages, and determining to maintain it as long as possible. "It is the heart."

"And you are subject to such seizures?" she continued, still gazing at me anxiously, so near that I could see the dew upon her lips, could catch the child-like fragrance of her breath. Here was a woman different to any that I had ever known or dreamed of—genuine, unaffected, of a sincerity almost boyish.

"This is the first, mademoiselle," I said, gripping my hands tight in the effort to maintain my self-control, to resist the temptation to seize her and crush her to me.

"Oh, how you suffer!" she cried, seeing the gesture and misinterpreting it. "Here—perhaps this will help you," and she held a little inlaid bottle beneath my nostrils.

I was not expecting it and just at that instant drew a full breath with the consequence that, for some moments after, I could draw no other. Tears poured from my eyes and I must have been altogether an absurd object; but, strange to say, my companion did not laugh.

"Heavens!" cried a voice from the door. "What are you doing to M. de Tavernay, Charlotte?"

"Charlotte!" echoed my heart. "Charlotte! Charlotte!" Then I caught my breath again for fear that I had cried the name aloud.

"M. de Tavernay has just had a very severe seizure of the heart, madame," answered my companion. "I was letting him smell of my salts and he took a full breath."

"I am better," I said, struggling to my feet and bowing to madame. "A thousand thanks, mademoiselle. But for your thoughtfulness I might not have rallied. I needed heroic treatment."

Madame glanced from one to the other of us, her face alight with amusement and her eyes with a meaning I did not wholly understand.

"I shall have to command Charlotte to remain near you, then, this evening, monsieur," she said. "In seizures of that kind, it is always well to have prompt aid at hand."

I bowed my thanks. I was not yet quite sure of my voice.

"And when one is subject to them," went on Madame, "one cannot be too careful."

"I have already assured mademoiselle," I said, "that this is absolutely the first."

"Then she is very fortunate," murmured Madame, pensively.

"She?" I repeated, staring at her.

"I mean you, of course. Then you are very fortunate, monsieur," and she smiled broadly.

I confess I did not yet quite catch her meaning. I was therefore the more surprised to see my companion redden deeply, then rise abruptly and walk to the other side of the room, where she paused with her back to us to contemplate the fall of Fribourg.

Madame smiled again and cast me a glance full of meaning.

"Yes, you have offended her," she said.

"Offended her?" I repeated in dismay. "I?"

"It is always an error," she explained, "to compel a lady to correct herself."

"I beg your pardon, madame," I said humbly.

"No, beg hers," she corrected.

"I do," I said; "though I am utterly in the dark as to the nature of my offsense."

"Come, Charlotte," called Madame. "Forgive him."

"What?" cried M. le Comte, appearing upon the threshold. "Do you already stand in need of forgiveness, Tavernay?"

"It seems so," I answered, somewhat miserably.

At the words, Mdlle. de Chambray ventured a glance at me, and I saw a smile scatter the clouds. She struggled to hold it back, to suppress it, but quite in vain.

"Come, you are forgiven," cried our host, and it seemed to me that in his glance also there was a hidden meaning. "I knew she was not hard of heart. And now for dinner."

"M. de Tavernay," said Madame, "to you I shall confide Charlotte—or should I put it the other way?"

"Either way pleases me immensely, madame," I said, bowing.

"You must know," Madame continued, "that M. de Travernay is subject to sudden seizures of the heart, and that Charlotte is the only one here who can work a cure."

"Our friend is not the first to be so afflicted," laughed M. le Comte, crossing to his wife's side. "Luckily, I also found the one person who could work a cure."

"Nonsense!" protested Mdlle. de Chambray, very red. "M. de Tavernay was really suffering acutely."

"Well, so have I suffered acutely," retorted her tormentor. "Did I not, madame?"

"Or pretended to!" rejoined Madame. "With that disease, it is often impossible to tell where reality leaves off and pretense begins, you men have made so close a study of the symptoms. But come, monsieur; the dinner waits."

I confess that the arm I gave my partner was not so steady as I could have wished it; for my heart was torn between delight and despair—delight that she should be here beside me, despair at my own stupidity in understanding so little of all this; but I managed, by some miracle, to enter the dining room without falling or colliding with the furniture, to get her safely seated and to seat myself beside her.

I drew a deep breath of relief when I found myself in port.

"You have never been to Paris, M. de Tavernay?" asked a low voice at my elbow, and I looked up to find her eyes on mine.

"No, mademoiselle," I stammered. "Perhaps not even to Orleans?" and I saw again in their depths that glimmer of mischief.

"No," I answered, not heeding it as a wise man would. "I have passed all my life upon our estate at Beaufort."

"Something told me so!" she murmured, and turned to her plate as innocently as though she were quite unconscious of having planted a pon-lard in my bosom.

CHAPTER IV.

A Scent of Danger.

I bore the blow with such stoicism as I possessed, and even made some show of listening and laughing at M. le Comte's account of our meeting and subsequent reconciliation. Both women were unaffectedly delighted with the story, which, indeed, was told with a wit and spirit quite beyond my reproduction. As I write these lines, I am again impressed with the wide difference between the awkward country boy who sat scowling in that pleasant company and the accomplished and finished gentleman who did so much to entertain it. For I know that my assumption of ease and interest could have deceived no one. All of us, I think, looking back over the mistakes and gaucheries of our youth, must feel our cheeks crimson more than once; certainly mine grow red when I think upon the sorry figure I made that evening. But when I started to set this history upon paper, I determined not to spare myself, nor will I.

"But who could have sent the message?" asked Madame, when M. le Comte had finished the story.

"I cannot even guess," he answered.

"How was it delivered to you? How came you to believe it?"

"I believed it," he explained, because it was brought to me by one of our old servants—Laroche, whom I left in charge of the stables."

"Ah, true," murmured Madame. "Laroche disappeared nearly a week ago. I fancied he had run away to join the revolutionists."

"Perhaps he did," said her husband, quietly.

Madame looked at him with a start of alarm.

"The revolutionists?" she repeated. "It was they who sent the message? But why? What was their object? Ah, I know," she added, with sudden conviction. "It was to deprive the Vendeans of your sword, in order that they might be defeated."

M. le Comte smiled as he looked down into her fond, admiring eyes.

"Ah, my dear," he said, "my sword is not so powerful as that. The Vendeans will win their battles just the same without me. I think the message was merely the bait for a trap—"

"From which you have escaped!" she cried triumphantly, and clapped her hands.

"Yes," he agreed, but there was still in his face a certain anxiety which she perceived.

"What is it, Henri?" she demanded. "You are not now in danger?"

He threw off his preoccupation with a laugh of genuine amusement.

"In danger?" he repeated. "No—or, at least, the only danger to which I am exposed at this moment, madame, is that of falling in love with you more violently than ever!"

"For shame, sir!" she cried, blushing like a girl. "You forget that we are not alone."

"On the contrary," he answered, "I think our example a most excellent one for our young friends yonder," and he looked across at us with beaming face, and with a meaning in his eyes which I tried in vain to fathom. "I hope they will profit by it,"

"Monsieur! Monsieur!" protested Madame, restraining him, yet unable to preserve a stern countenance.

"Besides," he added, laughing more and more, "it delights me to confuse that pert young lady sitting opposite us yonder, to make her blush as she is doing at this moment—and, I swear, so is Tavernay! What a pair of children! If their parents had only the good judgment to betroth them—"

"Monsieur!" interrupted Madame, more sharply. "You will not break your promise! There was to be no word—"

"And I will say none; pardon me," broke in M. le Comte. "The temptation was very great," and he looked at us, still laughing.

But I bent above my plate, all pleasure in the meal struck from me, for suddenly I found myself groaning beneath my burden. Ah, yes—if our parents—

"What is it, monsieur?" asked a low voice at my side, and I raised my eyes to find myself gazing into the brown depths of those I loved. "You sighed," she added, seeing that I did not understand.

"Did I?" I said, wondering somewhat that she remained so unruffled by the fire of raillery which had been turned upon her. "One is apt to sigh when there is something one desires very much and yet may not possess."

"Perhaps I can help you," she suggested, and I saw again in her eyes that light which should have set me on my guard. "If it is my smelling bottle—"

"No, thank you," I answered with dignity. "I do not need it."

"So you refuse to confide in me, even when I offer you my aid?"

"I fear that even you cannot aid me, mademoiselle; and if anyone in the world could, it would be you."

"I am not fond of riddles, M. de Tavernay; and it seems to me that you have just propounded one."

"I spoke very seriously," I answered, "and as plainly as I could."

"Oh, you mean it is my wits which are deficient! I must say, monsieur—"

"I meant nothing of the sort," I protested. "I meant—"

"No matter," she broke in. "Nothing is so wearisome as to have to explain one's meaning—unless it be to listen to the explanation. I am sure it argues dullness somewhere."

"I am sorry that I bore you," I retorted. "I had hoped that I might, at least, continue to furnish you amusement."

"Really," she cried, casting me a brilliant glance, "not a bad riposte! Come, we are quits, then!"

"With all my heart," I agreed; "especially since you have removed your button."

"Well, finish it!" she cried, her eyes dancing. "Finish it!"

"While I am too gallant to follow your example," I added, relentlessly.

"Good," she applauded. "Touche! I assure you, monsieur, you are not boring me in the least. All you need is a little practice—you hesitate, as all beginners do, to drive the point home—"

"I am not bloodthirsty," I interrupted. "On the contrary, I am of a disposition the most amiable."

"And there is still about you a slight clumsiness," she went on, not heeding me.

"Remember, I have never been to Paris," I reminded her, "nor even to Orleans."

"I shall not remember it long," she responded, "for there will soon be nothing about you to suggest it."

I bowed my thanks.

"Especially if I may remain near you," I said.

"Oh, that, of course!" she agreed. "Well, you have my permission, and you will find M. le Comte most hospitable. So remain, unless this mysterious business of yours is imperative."

"It is," I said, my face clouding again. "I must set out at daybreak."

"Ungallant man!" she retorted, looking at me with sparkling eyes. "Do you ask a favor only to refuse it! Do you understand what you are saying?"

"Only too well, mademoiselle," I murmured, disconsolately, "and I would have rather cut off my right hand than utter those words."

"Still the riddle!" she cried, with a gesture of despair. "Really, monsieur, you weary me! Whatever it is you desire, I advise you to ask for it. One gets nothing in this world without asking—and when it is refused, taking it just the same!"

"But when one may neither ask nor take, mademoiselle?"

"Oh, then," she retorted, with a shrug of the shoulders, "one is certainly in a bad way. One would better stop desiring," and she turned her shoulder to me in the most impudent manner possible, and gave her attention to M. le Comte.

"It is La Vendee which will re-establish monarchy in France," he was saying, his face alight. "Those peasants are unconquerable. There are two hundred thousand of them, peaceful men, tilling the soil, tending their herds, as they had always done, with no thought of resisting the republic until the republic attempted to take from them their priests and to draft them forth to fight on the frontiers. Then they rose as one man, fell upon their oppressors, routed them, cut them to pieces among the hedges. Now they are back in their homes again, to make their Easter; that over, they will march against Thouars and Saumur."

"But, M. le Comte," I protested, forgetting for a moment my own troubles in the interest of the narrative, "fighting of that sort can be successful only near home and in a most favorable country. For a campaign, troops must have organization."

"That is true, my friend," he agreed. "Well, these troops are being organized. Once the Bocage is free of the Blues, which will be within the month, our army will be ready to cross the Loire, take Nantes, advance through Brittany, Normandy and Maine, where we shall be well received, and at last march at the head of a united northwest against Paris itself! I tell you, M. de Tavernay, the republic is doomed!"

His eyes were sparkling, his face flushed with excitement. An electric shock seemed to run around the board and Madame sprang to her feet, glass in hand.

"The King!" she cried, and as we rose to drink the toast, I had a vision of a boy of 12 issuing triumphantly from the gate of the Temple to avenge his murdered father.

"And may God protect him!" added M. le Comte, as we set our glasses down.

There was gloom for a moment in our hearts, and I, at least, felt the stark horror of the revolution as I had never done—I saw more clearly its blood-guiltiness, its red madness. For, in our quiet home at Beaufort, the delirium of Paris had seemed far away, almost of another age and country.

We had shuddered at the stories of the September massacres, but only as one shudders at any tale of horror; even yet we scarcely believed that the King was really dead. It seemed impossible that such things could happen. Just as the body, pushed beyond a certain limit of pain, grows numb and suffers no more, so the mind, after a certain time, refuses to be impressed. It was thus with the reports which came from Paris, as one followed another, each more terrible than the last. Not even the actors themselves in that hideous drama comprehended what was passing there; they were but chips in a maelstrom, hurled hither and thither, utterly powerless to stay or to direct the flood which hurried them on and finally sucked them down to destruction. We of Beaufort were far off of the beaten track, and of too little consequence to cause the tide of revolution to sweep in our direction; so it had passed us by at such a distance that we had caught only the faint, confused murmur of it. True, our peasants had, for the most part, deserted us; our fields were untilled, our flocks untended; there was no money in the till and little meat in the larder, but personally we had experienced no danger and expected none. We had been content to sit quietly by while France wrought out her destiny, pitying those less fortunate than ourselves, and happy in the safety which our obscurity won for us.

Now I was suddenly brought face to face with the question, What was my duty? Was it to stay at home and permit these scoundrels to have their way unquestioned? Was it not rather to join the army of La Vendee and add my atom to its strength, to do what in me lay to render that campaign against the cannibals at Paris not a dream but a reality? For at last I understood. Those hideous tales were true. The fair land of France lay at the mercy of the vilest of her people——.

"Still pondering the riddle?" asked my companion, and I turned to find her again regarding me with a provoking scrutiny.

"No, mademoiselle," I said. "I was thinking that when M. le Comte rides back to the Bocage, I will accompany him."

Her eyes flashed a swift approval.

"That is a man's place!" she said. "That is where I would be, were I a man!"

"You will wish me God-speed, then?" I questioned.

"Yes—provided, of course," she added, looking at me searchingly, "that you are free to go."

"Free to go!" I repeated, and my chin fell on my breast. What instinct was it gave her this power to stab home whenever she chose?

"Then you are not free to go?" she queried, eyeing me still more closely.

"I confess," I stammered, "that it was not to don a white cockade I left Beaufort."

"But surely any more personal matter of business may be put aside when one's country calls!"

"Alas!" I murmured, "this is not an affair of that nature."

"Well," she said coolly, "you must, of course, decide for yourself, monsieur; more especially since you seem to wish to shroud yourself in a veil of mystery."

"Mademoiselle," I said desperately, "I should like your advice."

"But I understand nothing of the matter."

"You shall understand, if you will do me the honor to hear me."

"Would not M. le Comte's advice be of more service?" she asked with a sudden trepidation which surprised me.

"No," I said, decidedly, "not in this instance. I hope you will not refuse me."

She glanced at my anxious face and smiled curiously.

"Very well," she assented. "Proceed, then."

"Oh, not here!" I protested, with a glance at the others. "Perhaps, after dinner, mademoiselle, you will walk with me in the garden."

"In the garden?" she repeated, in an astonished tone, and looked at me with lifted brows.

"I know that it is a great favor I am asking," I continued hastily.

"Yes, it is more than that," she broke in sharply. "It is not convenable. What strange customs you must have at Beaufort, monsieur! Are the young ladies there accustomed to grant such requests?"

"I do not know," I answered miserably. "I have never before preferred such a one. I am not familiar with etiquette—with the nice rules of conduct. If I have done wrong, forgive me."

I saw her glance at me quickly from the corner of her eye, and my heart grew bolder.

"It is a beautiful garden," I went on. "I saw it this evening from my window. There are paths, seats—"

"I am familiar with the garden, monsieur," she interposed, drily.

"And the moon will be full tonight," I concluded.

"The more reason I should refuse you," she retorted. "It will be a dangerous place. Though I am amply able to take care of myself," she added.

"I do not doubt it, mademoiselle." I agreed, humbly, "especially with me. That has already been proved, has it not?"

"Yes," she said, with a queer little smile, "yes, I think it has."

"Believe me, it is not a ruse," I added, earnestly, "even were I capable of a ruse, which I am not. God knows I should like to walk with you there, but not to tell you what I shall tonight have to tell you."

She looked at me again, with a strange mixture of timidity and daring.

"Very well, M. de Tavernay," she said at last. "In the garden, then—provided, of course, that Madame consents."

"Thank you," I said, my heart warm with gratitude. "Shall I ask her?"

"No, I will attend to that," and she smiled a little as she glanced across the board. "But I know that it is not discreet; I am falling a victim to my curiosity. You have piqued it most successfully. Although I can never solve a riddle for myself, I cannot rest until I know the solution. I hope your riddle will be worth the risk."

"It will," I assured her, and fell silent, nerving myself for the task which lay before me.

"But will you hear what this tyrant is saying!" cried Madame, "that I must leave the chateau to dwell amid the foes of England—"

"Or beneath the blue skies of Italy," said M. le Comte. "Really, madame, I fear the chateau is no longer safe for you. The Revolution is looking this way—and not with friendly eyes."

"Does the Revolution, then, make war on women?"

"Have you forgotten Mdlle. de Lamballe?"

Madame went white at the retort, almost brutal in its brevity.

"But that was the canaille of Paris," she protested. "There are no such monsters here in Poitou."

"Ah, my dear," said her husband, sadly, "I fear there are monsters of the same sort wherever there are suffering and degraded men and women. And since it is us they blame for their suffering and degradation, it is upon us they try to avenge themselves. Besides, since the Republicans are trying to entrap me, they will doubtless end by coming here; and not finding me, they may throw you into prison as the surest way of causing me to suffer."

"We have the tower!" cried Madame. "We will defend ourselves!"

"The tower was not built to withstand artillery," her husband pointed out; "and even if the Republicans have no cannon, they need only camp about it and bide their time to starve you into surrender, since you could expect no aid from any quarter."

"But to leave the chateau—to abandon it to pillage—oh, I could never endure it!"

"Better that than to lose it and our lives together. Yes, decidedly, you must set out tomorrow—"

"Tomorrow!" echoed Madame, in despairing tones.

"M. de Tavernay will accompany you as far as Poitiers. At Poitiers, Mdlle. de Chambray—"

"Charlotte goes with me to Italy, do you not, my dear? It was arranged, you know, that you should remain with me."

"I do not know," Charlotte stammered, turning very red. "I—I think, perhaps, I would better stop at Chambray."

For some reason which I could not fathom, both Monsieur and Madame burst into a peal of laughter, while my companion turned an even deeper crimson.

"As you will," said her hostess, when she had taken breath. "I myself think that you might do worse, happy as I would be to have you with me."

"Why cannot you stop at Chambray also, Madame?" questioned Charlotte, her face slowly regaining its normal hue. "At least until you find some friends also bound for Italy? You will be quite safe at Chambray."

M. le Comte nodded.

"She is right, my dear," he said. "Accept and thank her. No one will look for you there—besides, it is not for you they are searching, but for me."

"And where will you be, monsieur?"

"I shall be in Bocage," he answered simply, "fighting the enemies of France."

Madame bit her lips to restrain their trembling, as she cast upon him a glance full of love and pride.

"That is where I would be, also," she said, "if the choice were mine. Madame de la Rochejaquelein accompanies her husband."

"That is true," he assented, "and she is sometimes frightfully in the way. If you knew that country, my love, you would see how impossible it is for women. Besides, I am not Rochejaquelein—I am not a leader, but a follower. I shall fight better—I shall be worth more—knowing that you are in safety."

"Very well, monsieur," she said, her eyes shining. "As you will. You know best."

He seized her hand and kissed it.

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And as I looked at them, I fancied that happy future already realized.

"You perceive, M. de Tavernay," he smiled, catching my eyes, "that though I have the honor to be this lady's husband, I have never ceased to be her lover."

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FREE BOOK ABOUT CANCER.

THE LEACH SANATORIUM, of Indianapolis, Ind., has published a book on cancer, which gives interesting facts about the cause of cancer, tells what to do in case of pain, bleeding, odor, etc., instructs in the care of the patient, and is in fact a valuable guide in the management of any case. The book is sent free to those interested who write for it, mentioning this paper.

The FARMSTEAD

QUESTIONS FOR ANSWER

The following questions are submitted to readers to answer. We do this in the hope of getting results of actual and successful experience, which will be the most valuable answers possible.

I have a horse 7 years old that has a swelling in one hind leg; the entire leg swells, but he doesn't become lame. The swelling appears only in the stable. Has a small scab on back part of leg; looks like a case of scratches. Will some one tell me the cause and suggest a remedy? —H., Trimble, Va.

Will somebody kindly give a remedy for grease heel through the Farmstead columns?—H., Rempel, Ohio.

Will some one please tell me how to care for and feed canary birds, when to commence getting them ready for hatching, and how to feed the young?—H., Emlenton, Pa.

TO DESTROY WEEVIL

What will destroy weevil in beans? One of my neighbors keeps beans for years in boxes and barrels, where it is cold enough to freeze, and he is never bothered by weevil.—W., Corydon, Pa.

If wheat is stirred often for a week the weevil will leave. If beans are not for seed heat them.—S., Bedford, Ind.

FOR THE JERSEY

L., Walker, W. Va.: I suggest that you feed your Jersey cow from 12 to 15 pounds of good clover hay and all the fodder she will eat; for each three pounds of milk feed one pound of a mixture of four parts bran, four parts corn and two parts oil meal, by weight, with two or three ounces of salt daily.—S., Attoway, Va.

CARING FOR GRAPES

Rules for grape culture from the experiment station record. United States department of agriculture:

The main points in grape culture are summarized as follows:

With a few exceptions grapes of the Labrusca species, of which the Concord may be taken as the type, are the most satisfactory for general planting.

A warm, rich, well drained soil is best for the grape.

Aylmost all vines should be planted at least eight feet apart.

Strong one-year-old vines are most desirable for planting.

Thorough shallow cultivation is essential.

The pruning of the first two years must be done with reference to the system under which the vine is to be trained after it begins fruiting. During this time the vine should become thoroughly established.

The best time for the principal pruning is soon after the leaves drop in autumn, but pruning can be done at any time during the winter when the vines are not frozen. Summer pruning consists of pinching the lateral branches in order to encourage the development of the fruit and the bearing wood for the succeeding year.

The long arm, short spur system of training is usually the most satisfactory for the inexperienced grower, but the renewal systems are highly recommended.

WORKING YOUNG HORSES

A colt can be worked some at 2 years of age if it is handled with extreme care and not given any very heavy work to do. Often a farmer has such a 2-year-old and needs an extra horse at times.

It will never pay to work a horse before it is 3 or 4 years old, unless it is large and strong. To work a small 2-year-old would mean further stunting, which would seriously impair the future usefulness of the animal. Such small colts should be fed extra well and allowed to grow to maturity before they are put in harness.

The 2-year-old colt that weighs from 1,000 to 1,200 pounds may be worked without injury. In starting to work such an animal give it the very lightest work possible at first, and hitch it up only two or three times a week to start with. Light and slow driving in an empty wagon or carriage will be best at first. Use on it a good set of new harness, mostly all leather in make, and a good, smooth, snugly fitting collar. Being young of age, its skin and muscles will be correspondingly tender; hence every precaution must be taken not to chafe the skin in any place or to bruise the flesh. A sore shoulder or back on the colt will mean sores on the mature horse all its life.

Where the 2-year-old colt is worked with an older and larger horse, if the load be at all heavy it should be given slight advantage over the older horse. This will mean no serious extra burden to the older horse and will mean much to the younger. As with all young horses, it will be better to work the kind with a steady and reliable old horse in the beginning. By this means it will learn

NOTABLE EVENTS OF THE YEAR PASSED IN REVIEW

Continued from First Page.

a somewhat more than usual gait. England going at the work of building ships with the grim determination of not allowing the mastery of the seas to be wrenched from her by the Germans.

In England public men of national and international fame declared unequivocally in public speeches that Germany's warlike preparations could be directed against England only, and while visiting in this country and Canada, Lord Charles Beresford, admiral of the British navy, and Lord Northcliffe, the owner of many newspapers and periodicals throughout Great Britain, made numerous speeches calling upon this country to unite with England in keeping the kaiser at peace. To put it mildly, the British nation viewed with extreme uneasiness throughout the entire year the possibility of an armed clash with Germany.

On the German side, officials close to the emperor made repeated assurances that the latter's aims were altogether peaceful. As late as November Count von Bernstroff, the German ambassador to the United States, made an extended speech in Philadelphia, in which he stated that his government no longer sought extension of its colonies and that the only aim of the German people for the future was the expansion of trade. But, some months before, when the Reichstag opened, one of the principal measures brought up for discussion was a new scheme for taxation, whose obvious object was an increase in the military budget. The scheme involved increasing the levy on many of the common necessities of life, such as tobacco, sugar, coffee, etc., and such was the fight made against it that eventually Chancellor von Buelow was driven to resign. The bill was finally passed before the resignation was presented, but the fact that the chancellor had been cue of the emperor's closest confidents satisfied the opponents of militarism that the imperial pressure for army and navy expansion was not relaxing.

It may thus be that, in the end, the German taxation controversy and the apprehensions and forecasts of European war will prove to have had fourth rank with the aviation and the North Pole discovery and the downfall of Turkish absolutism, as events of the year 1909.

Financial Troub'es

At any rate, whatever their significance they served to fix the attention upon the fact that the year was marked, in almost all nations, and, for the matter of that, in almost all states and cities, by a reexamination of financial budgets and resources. England, above all others, entered into this problem with a vital appreciation of its consequences, and the Liberal ministry, under Prime Minister Herbert Henry Asquith, making it the party issue of the year.

Confronted by an impending deficit of over $78,000,000, the ministry proposed, among other radical measures, a great increase in the inheritance, income and real estate taxes, together with stamp taxes on real estate and stock exchange deals. At once there broke forth a storm of opposition, especially among the wealthy and landed classes, who have since constantly cried "confiscation" and "Socialism." In November, after prolonged discussion, the budget passed the house of commons by a large majority, and went to the lords, who, after prolonged debate, which attracted attention all over the world, threw out the bill November 30 by a vote of 350 to 75. Two days later the house of commons supported overwhelmingly Premier asquith's resolution, charging the lords with usurpation, in that they had dared to interfere with financial legislation, contrary to the unwritten law of the kingdom; the next day parliament was prorogued till January 15, and the campaign for the January elections became hot immediately. If a Liberal majority is returned to parliament, the rejected budget will be passed and the unwritten law that the lords shall not interfere with the kingdom's financial program will be made into a statute, and another step will have been taken towards the curtailment, and probable ultimate abolishment of the house of lords. The lords all realize this, and also that the budget will hit them heaviest of all, as possessors of great landed estates and fortunes, and they are fighting in the campaign now on as if for their very lives, with the Liberals' cry filling all England that theirs is a campaign of democracy against class—a question of whether the people or the aristocracy shall rule.

In the meantime, the United States and Great Britain ran parallel, with the only difference that our fiscal discussion centered, not around a so-called budget, but the revision of the tariff.

Pursuant to the pledges of the platform on which he was elected, President Taft, immediately upon his inauguration on March 4 as Mr. Roosevelt's successor, called congress in extra session on March 15 for the express purpose of revising the tariff without delay, with the two-fold object of living up to the Republican platform promises to revise the tariff and satisfying the need of an actually increasing revenue, the government's deficit being estimated all the way from $8,000,000 to $100,000,000.

Committees of both houses had been in session during the latter part of the Roosevelt administration taking testimony on the impending revision, and on April 9, the first bill was introduced, known as the Payne bill, was passed in the house. On July 8, the senate passed the bill with amendments, most of which raised the house duties, either by restoring the old tariff rates or increasing the latter. As a result, from the date of the senate's action the bill was finally passed by both houses and signed by the President on August 5, Mr. Taft had his hands full trying to persuade all hands to meet the popular demand for revision downward and the Republican party pledges for such revision where needed. With the bill signed Mr. Taft issued a statement in which he declared that in large measure it met the wishes of the people; four days later the bill went into effect; and, whether due to the new bill, or to the resumption of general prosperity, coincident with the year itself, the government revenues manifested a marked increase shortly after the new rates went into effect.

Legislative Features

Two features of the new bill have been dwelt upon by its friends both in and out of the administration as being new and of gerat importance. One is the provision for a tax upon corporations, and the other was the authorization for the appointment of a tariff commission, which should assist the President in determining how to enforce the maximum and minimum features of the bill, and to collect and prepare data for use in future tariff legislation. The President named as the members of this commission Prof. Henry C. Emery, James B. Reynolds and Alvin H. Sanders. He defended the corporation tax as affording a means of carrying out the publicity policies inaugurated under Roosevelt.

Another piece of Tart-recommended legislation that developed during the tariff deliberations was the passing of an authorization for a vote of the states on an income tax amendment to the constitution. The amendment was at once acted upon in the state of Alabama, where it was unanimously approved by the legislature and signed by the governor by August 9. Mr. Taft received the cordial support of William J. Bryan, who issued a public call to Democrats to aid in the passing of the corporation tax. Incidentally Mr. Bryan severely excoriated the Democrats who defected in the matter of the speakership and cast the deciding votes for Mr. Cannon.

This fight over the speakership was really the start, in both houses, of a serious division of attitude among the Republicans over the proper way of revising the tariff. Certain Republicans in the house, who had rebelled during the previous sessions of congress against the domination of the speaker, crystallized into a strong and united group at the outset of the extra session and only missed defeating Joseph G. Cannon for re-election through support given to the latter by some defecting Democrats. In the senate the defection was based not so much on the question of rules as on a protest against what was called the "schedule" of those interested in putting through a tariff drawn for special interests. Senators La Follette of Wisconsin, Bristow of Kansas, Nelson of Minnesota, Beveridge of Indiana and Dolliver and Cummins of Iowa, led the movement. Together with the dissident Republicans in the house, they became known as the "insurgents," and, when congress adjourned, they carried their insurrection out into their home districts. As the year closes, the great agricultural states of the middle west constitute a battleground for the so-called insurgents and their opponents, led by Speaker Cannon, who is being made the principal object of attack on the part of the insurgents.

Sufficient time had not yet elapsed when the year closed to determine the ultimate fate of the new British budget or the ultimate effect of the new American tariff. But the fact that so imperative a necessity for increased revenue existed in two of the world's largest governments—in fact, in three, if Germany be included—perhaps placed the question of the finances of government in the fourth rank among the year's developments.

Municipal Frobl ems

Nor was the importance of the subject in any wise lessened by the fact that the same issue arose in municipal and state governments. During the year, the states of Michigan and of Georgia ran so short of cash as to be unable, for a time, to meet current bills as they came due. Several other states barely escaped a similar predicament. In the metropolis of the country, New York city, an extraordinary confusion arose over the state of the city's accounts, over the question of whether the debt limit should be raised, and finally over the political question of whether there should be a vital change in the city administration. In the campaign for mayoralty, a business man, Otto T. Bannard, was nominated by the Republicans and Fusionists, and, though he was defeated, the board of estimate on the same ticket with him was successful, and, in effect, the finances of the city, which will spend a billion dollars the next four years, were taken out of the hands of Tammany, which had so long administered them.

Similarly, in Chicago, there was a comprehensive attempt to reorganize finances. The movement was led by a professor of the University of Chicago, C. E. Merriam, who had been elected at the spring polls to the board of aldermen, and finally took form in the appointment of a committee to investigate conditions and report on proposed methods of revision. The committee had only begun its work when the year closed, but the result of its inquiries were foreshadowed by an announcement from city officials that the payroll for 1910 would probably be cut by about $1,500,000.

Two concrete efforts were made to rectify financial conditions in the various states. Iudeed, the year's thoughts among the American people, outside of such as were devoted to tariff, appeared to concentrate on city government. Not only were finances carefully heeded in the latter respect, but the cause of "commission government," by which radical changes are effected in the method of city administration, made rapid advancement. Government by commission was adopted in Arkansas City, San Diego, Wichita and other cities, and in Minnesota and Wisconsin legislative authorization was issued to cities of certain class to alter their administration to conform to this new plan. Des Moines, Ia., which was one of the pioneers of the plan, reported during the year that an annual deficit of $80,000 had been converted into an annual surplus of $20,000, and this alone did much to stimulate interest.

As a part of the movement for better conditions in our cities, which have to bear the brunt of the burden of making aliens over into Americans, much attention was given to the critical subject of immigration, exclusion and deportation of immoral persons being one of the provisions of the American immigration act. immigration on an extensive scale was resumed during the year, and the pressure for some means of restraining it was resumed almost simultaneously. Under this pressure, the governmental authorities applied all possible excuses for restriction, increasing the number of deportations until many cries of injustice were advanced. On March 1 a federal investigating committee reported that the immigration laws were much in need of amendment, especially with regard to the criminal classes. On March 12, emphasis seemed to be given to this contention by the dramatic killing in Palermo, Italy, of a lieutenant of police of New York, Joseph Petrosino. Petrosino had been for several years a most courageous and daring opponent of the so-called Italian Black Hand in New York. He had gone abroad to secure evidence against criminal Italian immigration, and his murder at once provoked much comment throughout the country on the dangers involved in an unrestrictive immigration law. Aside from the criminal aspect of the immigration problem, an interesting phase developed in an agitation for a scientific distribution of immigrants under federal direction.

Something of emphasis was imparted to the foreign-American problem by the developments among the steel industries in Pennsylvania, where a bitter and sullen strike among the steel car workers at McKee's Rocks involved an almost equally bitter and sullen conflict between races. At one time the Americans at McKee's Rocks marched back to work independently of the foreigners; and again Secretary Morrison, of the American Federation of Labor, declared that the whole trouble at the mills was that the owning company was seeking to cut down wages by taking advantage of the fact that the majority of the employes were newly imported foreigners. Eventually, this strike settled itself by popular pressure, the company giving in to the men; but it was an intense and dramatic affair while it lasted and contained many elements of social disorder that created momentary apprehension.

Labor Problems

The biggest strike of the year, as far as this country was concerned, began on December 1, when 20,000 railroad switchmen in the northwest went on strike, completely tying up the movement of freight in that section and causing numerous industries, such as the Minneapolis and St. Paul flour mills, to shut down for lack of raw products. The strike was inaugurated in an attempt to receive higher pay. About the middle of the year practically all of Sweden was seriously incommoded for weeks by a general strike of the labor unions, partly for higher pay, and partly as a protest against general living conditions. The dead could not be buried, a bread famine was threatened, and even milk for infants was most difficult to obtain, even with the army performing all sorts of manual work, such as running lighting plants and making and delivering bread and other necessaries of life.

The McKees Rocks strike was not allowed at any time to extend beyond its immediate field, nor was there any other strike in this country during the year that had much more than local sweep, including the Philadelphia street car strike for higher pay and the Georgia railroad strike for the elimination of negro firemen, both being won by the men. In the main the labor situation for the year was extremely quiet. Interest centered in the so-called Buck Stove and Range case, wherein the leaders of the American Federation, Messrs. Samuel Gompers, John Mitchell and Secretary Morrison, were held guilty of contempt of court for continuing to publish a boycott of the Buck Stove and Range company, of St. Louis, in the Federationist. On March 11, the District of Columbia court of appeals sustained the lower court in its decision that Gompers and his associates were guilty, and in October the federal court for the District of Columbia still further sustained the decision. Mr. Gompers and those with him contended that obedience to the mandate of the court in the first instance was an abridgement of personal liberty, to which the labor organizations could not submit, and they insisted that, though they might be imprisoned, they would continue to fight for the principle involved.

This position was reiterated by Mr. Gompers in the meeting of the American Federation of Labor held in Toronto in November 8, the convention being the first annual session of the Federation held outside of American boundaries. Mr. Gompers, however, explained that this fight for principle was to be evolutionary and not revolutionary—an attitude which he had previously taken in a tour abroad made by him during the year for the purpose of studying labor conditions in other countries. At the Federation convention and elsewhere, it was made clear that the method of operating for the achievement of reforms was to be by suffrage and by influence upon suffrage. And wherever elections of any importance were held during 1909, the labor unions were found active in attempting to elect or prevent the election of candidates favorable or unfavorable to themselves. But they were not conspicuously successful politically until the November tides, when they again put a labor mayor, P. H. McCarthy, into the chair in San Francisco.

Interestingly enough, one of the subjects of consideration which aroused the most enthusiasm at the convention of this Labor Federation was that on woman suffrage, and a resolution was adopted urging the various locals of the Federation to exert their influence in every possible way in favor of enlarged rights and the franchise for women. Of course, part of the motive of these resolutions was the improvement in the condition of working women, which it was felt might best be wrought through woman suffrage. But aside from that, it was significant that thus, among the so-called "common people," the suffrage movement gained explicit support.

Outside of the labor field, suffrage made equally notable progress during the year. In the eastern states a number of wellto-do and wealthy women took active hold of the propaganda, including Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, Mrs. Clarence H. Mackay, and many others. Organizations of many sorts were formed and membership was held in them not only by prominent women but also by prominent men. There was little or no tendency to adopt the militant program of the so-called suffragettes of England, several of whom came over to America during the latter part of the year to stimulate general interest in the cause. Among them was Mrs. Tmmeline Pankhurst, leader of the militants in the British Empire. She was received with enthusiasm and made many speeches throughout the United States. Almost while she was speaking a climax came to the suffragette movement in England by an attack made on the Old Hall in London during the installation of the lord mayor, and by a declaration on the part of Winston Churchill that the whole cause was losing strength through the disorderly methods of its advocates.

Public Conservation

Another movement which attracted well-nigh universal interest in this country was that in behalf of conservation and the preservation of our natural resources, with especial attention to those resources still in the hands of the federal government.

What had been begun under the Roosevelt regime, and conceived long before that, was continued, with due expansion during the year. The government prosecuted without interruption its many irrigation projects in the west, and on September 23 signalized one of its most momentous undertakings by opening the Gunnison tunnel for the reclamation of the Montrose valley in Colorado. President Taft touched the button for this occasion and made the dedicatory address, and thereafter made it evident in many of his speeches on his western tour that the sympathies of the current administration were fully with the reclamation movement. So far as it lay within the power of the chief executive, all possible steps would be taken to further the reclamation development.

At the national irrigation congress, which assembled in Spokane on August 11, there arose the now celebrated controversy between Chief Forester Gifford Pinshot and Secretary of the Interior Ballinger over the protection of water power sites. Secretary Ballinger had revoked an order of Secretary Garfield, his predecessor, in regard to the withdrawal from entry of certain lands potentially valuable for water power, and Forester Pinchot, at the irrigation congress, appeared to criticise the wisdom of this policy. A somewhat sharp exchange of opinions ensued, the situation being complicated by an affair in Alaska, wherein it was alleged that certain numerous coal claims taken by the Cunningham syndicate had been wrongfully entered. Secretary Ballinger had at one time been the attorney for the Cunningham syndicate and this was cited to show that his actions in the government's attempt to withdraw entry on these coal lands were not disinterested. The whole subject was passed up to the President, who made public a letter fully exonerating Ballinger and dismissing from office the chief field inspector of the forestry service, L. H. Clavis, for filing misleading information against Ballinger. Subsequently, the President also made public a letter to Pinchot stating that the Ballinger letter was not intended as a reflection upon him, praising Pinchot's great service to the country and expressing a hope that he would remain at his post.

The whole controversy was still unsettled as the year closed. But that the advocates of conservation were not affected by the whole matter was made evident by a strong appeal issued by Charles W. Elliot, who retired from the presidency of Harvard university, and had been made president of the National Conservation League, for concentration of popular attention on the preservation of the nation's resources, both in coal and in water power. Associated with Dr. Elliot in the league were many of the most prominent men in the country, the league being at once formed by the conference held in Washington in February. The declaration of prinsciples by the conference was transmitted to congress by President Roosevelt as a possible guide in shaping legislation.

A natural corrollary of the conservative movement was the movement for deep waterways. This movement was extremely strong throughout the year, especially in the middle west, where the Lakes-to-Gulf navigation plans were given a big impetus by a convention at New Orleans early in November. Prior to this convention, President Taft included a steamboat trip down the Mississippi in his western tour, and in his various speeches en route repeated the position he had taken in his speeches further west and, in November at Norfolk's waterway congress—viz., that the whole subject of waterways should be taken up on the same comprehensive and businesslike basis as had been used in the case of the Panama canal, which made notable progress during the year. He advocated the formation of a systematic plan of procedure and the creation of a bond issue with which to carry it out, at the same time setting his face firmly against "the pork barrel." This idea he promised to recommend in his message to congress.

President's Trip

In fact, the president's western trip was fruitful of an extraordinary number of legislative proposals. The president first started across the country on September 15 from Boston, passing through many cities en route, reaching as far west and north as Seattle and returning via San Francisco, Los Angeles, El Paso and the southern states. Confessedly, this long trip was made for the express purpose of informing the people of the administration's legislative program.

At Wiona, in Minnesota, President Taft delivered the first speech that caused any popular stir. Winona is the home of Congressman James A. Tawney, and the president availed himself of the occasion to justify the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill (for which Tawney had voted) and to pronounce it one of the best pieces of tariff legislation in the history of the country. The speech was much criticised both within and without the president's party, and it served at once to start the so-called "insurgents" of congress, as represented by La Follette and Cummins, on an anti-tariff, anti-Cannon, anti-Aldrich propaganda.

But as President Taft got further into the west, his speeches changed from political to constructive subjects, and by the time he had reached Richmond on his return, he stated without reserve that he would recommend to the approaching session of congress the following topics: Supervision of capital stock and of bond issues of interstate corporations; readjustment of the powers of the interstate commerce commissions; expansion of the duties and powers of the bureau of corporations; creation of an interstate commerce bureau in the department of justice; creation of a so-called "railroad court;" establishment of postal savings banks; amendment of the laws governing the issuance of injunctions; comprehensive provisions as to conservation, waterways, irrigation, etc.

En route from Los Angeles eastward, President Taft crossed the Mexican border and met President Diaz, of the latter country. Save for the visit of President Roosevelt to the Panama republic, this was the first time that a president of the United States had gone outside of national territory during his term of office. In Mexico, it required a special act of congress to permit Diaz to cross into American territory. The formal meeting of the two chief executives took place on a bridge which for the time being was regarded as neutral territory. Cordial felicitations were exchanged, and an elaborate banquet was set by Diaz, at which the diners ate off a million dollar set of gold dishes taken from Maximilian by the Mexicans.

In the latter part of the year, the subject of the relationship of the United States to the Latin republics was given an additional interest by the breaking out of a revolution in Nicaragua against President Zelaya, whose summary execution of two American citizens in mid-November one the charge of being revolutionists, led the government to prepare for the extreme of a punitive expedition of marines in case Zelaya refused to make proper reparation for his conduct. Later warships were despatched to Nicaraguan ports on the Atlantic and Pacific, and a force of several hundred marines sent to Panama to be close at hand in case of need. Still later, on December 1, Secretary of State Knox, in a remarkable document, in which he warmly accused Zelaya of frequent treaty violations and other international breaches of the peace, declared that this government would hold him personally responsible for the execution of Americans. At the same time Mr. Knox announced his passports to the Nicaraguan charge d'affaires, but added that he could remain in this country and the government would consult with him, if necessary, just as it proposed to consult with the revolutionary representative in Washington. As the year ends the international question and the Nicaraguan civil war remain to be definitely settled.

Prior to the up-cropping of this Zelayan matter, the state department's chief concern to the south of us was in keeping one Senor Cipriano Castro from again setting foot on Venezuelan soil, or taking up his abode anywhere near it.

While the Venezuelan president was in Germany for a serious operation, a revolution against him and in favor of Vice President Gomez, whom Castro had left in charge of the government, broke out in Caracas. Naturally, with the vice president directing it, it was successful, and shortly after Castro was solemnly declared guilty in the high federal court of Venezuela of plotting for the assassination of his successor. On March 26 Castro set sail for France, with the avowed object of wresting back his lost power; but wherever he turned for a foothold in the West Indies he was told that his harbor visit he could not remain there. As a result, Senor Castro—thanks to the European nations responding so promptly to a hint from Uncle Sam—is still impotently gnashing his teeth in Europe. In such opera bouffe fashion the terror of South America was tamed.

It was in January that Cuba again took her place among the nations, the U. S. troops withdrawing following the election and inauguration of Jose Miguel Gomez as president.

Our Position in Far East

Undoubtedly the matters of largest moment engrossing the state department had to do with the far east. One was the question of American participation in the Chinese railroad loan, and, hence, in the participation of the international commercial development of the Chinese empire. This matter first came to the front in the early part of the year, when it was announced that the bankers of England, France and Germany were about to participate jointly in lending a large amount of money for the completion of the Hankow-Sze-Chuen road. American bankers at once demanded participation and secured the support of the state department in their demand. Eventually the amount of the loan was increased to make American participation practicable; but when the entire matter was believed to have been settled amicably, it was rumored that the Chinese government, tired of the international squabbling, had decided not to make the loan at all.

This is now the state of affairs. Meanwhile, the controversies between Japan and China had taken a turn that appeared important to all other nations, both countries having signed an agreement in regard to railroads which were being built by Japan in Manchuria. Some of the Chinese protested that the agreement was coerced from China and gave the advantage entirely to Japan, in fact, constituted an aggression upon Chinese territory. Just at this moment, there appeared in the American press a Washington correspondence setting forth the fact that the Japan-Chinese agreement was about to be investigated by the United States. The correspondence was alleged to have emanated from an interview with the newly appointed U. S. minister to China, Charles R. Crane. Secretary Knox accordingly recalled Mr. Crane, just as he was to start from San Francisco for his post, asked for and secured his resignation.

The second week of December it was authoritatively stated that the Chinese mission would doubtless be offered to and accepted by William J. Calhoun, lawyer and diplomat, of Chicago, before the end of the present year. It is the aim of the administration to take active care of American business interests in the Orient through the Chinese mission. Another presidential appointment that attracted wide attention was that of U. S. Circuit Judge Horace H. Lurton, of Tennessee, to the U. S. supreme bench to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Associate Justice Rufus W. Peckham. The appointment was sent to the senate on December 13. Judge Lurton and President Taft formerly sat on the same federal bench.

Troubles of Nations

While the United States had little diplomatic activity in Europe, other nations passed through a peculiarly trying ordeal, Holland being one of the few European nations that escaped a large amount of trouble. There the year was one of great rejoicing over the birth of an heir to the throne, little Princess Juliana Louisa Emma Maria Wilhelmina, Princess of Orange, arriving on April 30, thereby causing the whole country to be racked with transports of joy. With this babe among them, the Dutch no longer fear for the independence of their nation, following the end of the life of their queen, who, had she died childless, would have been the last of the royal line, and the crown would have passed to a German princelet, making Holland virtually an annex of the German empire.

The troubles of England, Germany, Austro-Hungary, Servia and Turkey have already been reviewed, and the events in Turkey serve as a reminder that old Abdul Hamid was not the only despot to suffer dethronement because af his dislike of constitutional government. Following an attempt of the shah to overthrow the constitution, the Nationalist party in Persia attacked the capital of the country, succeeded in gaining entrance and on July 16 deposed the shah, installing in his place the youthful prince, Sultan Ahmed Mirza. The latter made several pathetic appeals for return to his parents, but he was coerced into remaining on the throne. Russian troops were sent to Teheran at the outset of the insurrection to maintain order, and the deposed shah took refuge in the Russian legation. But the entire situation was handled apparently in the interest of all powers, and none seemed to gain any special advantage.

Spain's energies were largely taken up with the fight of the Riffs in Morocco. This conflict was still in progress as the year drew to a close. It had proved costly to Spain, not only in the expense of war, but also in the serious social disorders at home. For in Catalonia and other sections of Spain the populace, under the alleged lead of the Republicans and revolutionists, rebelled against the sending of more soldiers to the front, and the rebellion almost amounted to an insurrection. Martial law was declared not only in Catalonia, but also at Madrid, and hundreds of arrests and many executions took place, but not before many outrages against the church and its upholders, both priests and nuns, had been perpetrated. Eventually the whole situation culminated in the arrest and execution, as an anarchist, of Francis Ferrer, a professor in the schools of Barcelona, who was accused of treason. The execution provoked a storm of indignant protest, first among laborites and socialists and then among many conservatives of other countries, including our own. Anti-Spanish demonstrations of violent character were made in Italy and France, and less disorderly ones in other nations. In Spain the resentment swept the Maura ministry out of power and restored the premiership to Mcret y Prendergast.

The socialists of all European countries took up the Ferrer matter and made it their cause. In fact, in this and many other affairs the socialists of Europe appeared as opponents of warfare. They were among the leaders of the opposition to the imperial taxation policy in Germany, and they aided materially in the overthrow in July of Premier Georges Clemenceau in France, as the result of the uncovering of serious naval corruption, he being succeeded by Aristide Briand, a radical socialist. Furthermore, the socialists were active opponents of the vatican in the controversy between France and the vatican over the clerical association. As the year closed, this controversy between the church and the government in France had again become acute, through the opposition of the church to the abandance of Catholic children upon lay schools.

There was nothing in the relicious atmosphere of the United States during the year that savored in the least of religious-political controversy. There was, however, a strong development of religious and moral propaganda in general. Also, there was a continuance of the anti-liquor movement, which had begun even before 1908. This resulted in the eenactment of extremely stringent prohibitive statutes in Alabama, Kansas and other states, Kansas forbidding the sale of liquor even in drug stores and rendering it practically impossible for one to have liquor in his own home. There was some reaction against this tendency in the elections of the fall, as the result in many cities attested, notably in San Francisco, where an attempt to raise the saloon license from $500 to $1,000 per year was beaten most decisively.

Elections and Sugar

In some quarters the elections of November were interpreted as a general reaction from "the extremes of morality and righteousness. But, however that may be, the anti-corruption elements certainly were overthrown in such conspicuous places as San Francisco and Philadelphia, the reform candidate for district attorney, the celebrated Francis J. Heney and Clarence D. Gibboney another noted fighter of political corruption, being snowed under, while in Cleveland Tom Johnson, running for re-election as mayor, and his three-cent fare ordinance were rejected for the first time in a long period. In Toledo the reform mayor, Brand Whitlock, succeeded in being re-elected. And in New York the anti-Tammany forces triumphed in everything except the mayoralty and even in this office, though William J. Gaynor was elected, he was elected rather in spite of than because of his support by Tammany. Another interesting election result was the re-election of Governor Guild of Massachusetts by the Republicans by the greatly reduced plurality of 7,000 votes. Dissatisfaction over the various schedules in the tariff bill was given as one of the causes for the poor showing made by the Republicans.

So far as there was any conspicuous probing on the part of the public during the year, it centered in a series of exposures by the so-called sugar trust. The latter was caught in the spring of the year in perpetrating certain frauds in the weighing of its sugar importations at the government dock in Williamsburg, New York, and fined to the extent of $134,116 on March 5, 1909. Also, in April, it was compelled to disgorge over $2,000,000 in fraudulent entries. But in November Richard Parr, an agent of the treasury department, gave out a statement alleging that the frauds in weighing, in making untrue appraisals, etc., would aggregate nearly $30,000,000 and would cover a period of twenty years. The figure, the enormous amount of the so-called fraud created a sensation, started a general investigation at the specific order of the president and the cabinet, and led to what promises to be a complete overhauling of the customs service, 83 New York customs house employes having been dismissed up to December 1. Mr. Parr intimated collusion within the treasury department at Washington and alleged that his investigations had been impeded even by a former assistant secretary of the treasury, James B. Reynolds, who entered a vigorous denial. Various minor wrongdoings and government officials now stand indicted for collusion in these custom frauds.

An impotant factor in the sugar trust expose was William Loeb, Jr., the secretary to the President under Mr. Roosevelt, who was transferred by Mr. Taft to the collectorship of port at New York. Mr. Loeb set about his new duties radically, enforcing statutes against entering of goods without due declaration, establishing a vigorous system of espionage to prevent smuggling, and even subjecting to search persons of distinction and captains of some of the transatlantic liners. The searching of individuals and the general rigor of the Loeb administration led to strong protest from many sources, and toward the end of the year determined efforts were being made in some quarters to effect Mr. Loeb's removal. However, it was given out from Washington that the secretary of the treasury indorsed Mr. Loeb's policy and would support his actions generally and specifically as to the sugar expose.

Mr. Loeb, as collector of the port, he departed for his widely advertised African hunting trip on March 23, reaching Mombasa on April 21, after stopping only at Gibraltar, Naples and Aden. At Naples Mr. Roosevelt was received by the king of Italy. From Mombasa he went at once to the Nandi hills, and since then he has been killing all manner and large and small game and forwarding the hides and skeletons of the same to the Smithsonian institution at Washington for mounting and exhibition Mr. Roosevelt's last notable act as president was to exert his influence successfully against the passage of several radical anti-Japanese bills by the California legislature, thus quieting once more talk of a possible conflict between this country and Japan.

Roosevelt and Taft

With Mr. Roosevelt our only living expresident, and Mr. Taft inaugurated as president on schedule date, with Washington cut practically off from the rest of the country by a violent snow and sleet storm, the cabinet was entirely reorganized, leaving only Secretaries Wilson and Meyer in office. Philander C. Knox became secretary of state; Franklin MacVeagh, a Chicago merchant, secretary of the treasury; Jacob M. Dickinson, a Democrat and a lawyer of Tennessee and Chicago, secretary of war; George W. Wickersham, of New York, attorney general; Frank H. Hitchcock, the chairman of the Republican national committee, postmaster general; George L. Meyer, postmaster general under Roosevelt, secretary of the navy; Richard A. Ballinger, who had been head of the land office under Roosevelt, but who had resigned, secretary of the interior; Charles Nagel, of St. Louis, secretary of commerce and labor; James Wilson being retained as secretary of agriculture. The nomination of Wickersham aroused much public interest because of his known affiliations with a law firm most of whose business had been with trusts and large corporations. The President himself answered whatever anxieties there might be as to his pursuit of the Roosevelt policies by expressing complete fealty to them in his inaugural address. He added, however, that it had become necessary to re-enforce these policies by strengthening up the statutes, announced the latter as the chief aim of his own administration, and later, pointed to the unusual array of legal talent in his cabinet as an earnest of his intention.

Undoubtedly, the most important legal decision of the year was that of the federal circuit court of appeals, sitting in St. Louis, which, on November 20, handed down a decision in favor of the government in its suit to dissolve the Standard Oil company. This decision "Not only returns the control of the Standard's numerous subsidiary companies to their separate stockholders, but enjoins the Standard Oil company or its agents from voting any stock it holds in the subsidiary companies." By a unanimous bench—four judges sitting—this dissolution was ordered on the ground that the Standard restrains trade and stifles competition in violation of the Sherman act. Of course, the Standard Oil company has taken an appeal to the United States supreme court, which earlier in the year virtually affirmed the decision of Judge Grosscup and associates in the federal court in Chicago nullifying the famous Standard Oil fine of $29,240,000. Later, Judge Anderson, sitting at Indianapolis, instructed the jury, in the case of the government's rehearing, to bring in a verdict of not guilty. In Missouri, however, the Standard Oil company did not have such good fortune, the state supreme court sustaining the lower court in ousting the company from the state. In Texas the prolonged prosecution of the Waters-Pierce Oil company, as an alleged affiliation of the Standard Oil, was brought to an end by the payment of a fine of $1,808,750 by the company and a promise by it not to do business within the state. While not figuring conspicuously in the affairs of Standard Oil, Mr. Rockefeller signalized the year by additional gifts to the University of Chicago, a donation of $10,000,000 to the general education board, and of $1,000,000 for the study and prevention of hookworm in the south, which, it was officiany announced, held 2,000,000 Americans in thraldom.

Of the year closes the Standard Oil dissolution decision is seen to be far reaching, provided it is upheld by the supreme court, and under the Sherman act, sustained, the government will be in a position to prosecute and break down any combination of any sort whatsoever aimed to restrain trade or destroy competition.

Another notable decision by the United States supreme court sustained the general validity of the Hepburn act regulating interstate commerce, but the commodity clause of the same was overruled. By still another decision, the same court compelled the Consolidated Gas company, of New York, to sell gas at 80 cents a thousand cubic feet, according to state statute, thus requiring the company to repay to its patrons several million dollars in rebates for gas charged in excess of the state fixed price.

A notable financial deal of the year was the purchase of control of the Equitable Life Assurance society by J. P. Morgan, he securing the majority stock control from Thomas F. Ryan, who obtained the same at the time of the famous life insurance investigation of 1906. The Equitable's assets are $470,000,000, and with the stock control goes control of several large trust companies, with millions of assets. Another important financial deal of the year was the selling of the Frisco system of railroads by the Rock Island syndicate headed by B. F. Yoakum and Edwin Hawley. Over 6,000 miles of railroad changed hands.

Another financial matter of great possibilities was brought to the attention of the country when President Taft, in his annual message to congress, stated that a Pan-American bank would speedily be established in this country. This will be done early in the coming year. The parent bank will be in New York; there will be branch banks, where needed, throughout the nations to the south of us, and the object of this great bank will be to furnish capital for American enterprise in these countries.

In his message sent to congress on December 7, the President recommended the establishment of a postal savings bank, a higher rate of pastage for magazines, simpler methods for the federal courts to avoid the law's delays, publicity in federal elections, and a strong federal health bureau. He promised special messages on conservation and the other subjects discussed on his western trip; urged economy on administration; asked that no congressional inquiry be made into the sugar scandals; seeks reorganization in the state department, putting the service on a merit basis, a policy that means that the administration will encourage and protect American enterprise in foreign countries. He also wants pensions granted to aged civil employes of the federal government and declares that the work of the recently appointed tariff board will be of great assistance in future revision of the rates of duty.

Death's Shining Marks

In October the supreme court lost one of its members, Associate Justice Rufus W. Peckham, who died after 14 years of service at the age of 70. Two other most notable deaths were those of H. H. Rogers, on May 19, and E. H. Harriman, on September 9, shortly after his return from Europe, whither he had gone in search of relief. Mr. Rogers' death caused no palpable change either in the administration or the plans of Standard Oil; while Mr. Harriman had discounted the effects of his death by planning out ahead just who would direct his great railroad system and how this should be done. Julius Kruttschnitt becoming head of the Union and Southern Pacific roads. Mr. Rogers' fortune was estimated at $40,000,000; Mr. Harriman's at $80,000,000, his widow being left in sole control of all of it in one of the briefest wills that ever disposed of millions.

Of death which resulted in great direct benefactions for the public was that of John Stewart Kennedy, of New York, known as "cash on hand" Kennedy. Mr. Kennedy had been, next to Russell Sage, the man to whom Wall street knew it could most successfully apply for actual money in times of stress. In his will Mr. Kennedy bequeathed half of his fortune, or about $30,000,000, to various religious and charitable purposes, this being the largest testamentary gift of the sort in the history of the world.

Outside of the financial world, the noted deaths of the year included George Meredith and Algernon Charles Swinburne, two of England's greatest literateurs; Richard Watson Gilder, poet and editor of the Century Magazine; W. M. Laffan, editor of the New York Sun and art connoisseur; F. F. Collier, the publisher; Dr. Marion Crawford, Charles Warren Stoddard, Sarah Orne Jewett, Rosa Nouchette Carey and Olive Logan, all distinguished in the world of letters; Cesare Lombroso, the Italian criminologist; Edward Everett Hale, at 87; the Rev. Dr. R. R. Huntington, rector of Grace church, New York city; the Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler, at 87, and for many years a leader in the Presbyterian church; the Most Rev. Arthur Sweatman, archbishop of Toronto and primate of all Canada; Mrs. Martin Finley, at 81, author of the "Elsie" books; Dr. Affonso a Moreira Penna, president of Brazil; Mrs. J. Addison Hayes, daughter of Jefferson Davis; Contess de Lesseps, widow of the builder of the Suez Canal; Grand Duke Vladimir, oldest uncle of the Czar of Russia; Gen. John S. Kountz, past commander-in-chief of the G. A. R., and known as "the drummer boy of Missionary Ridge;" E. J. ("Lucky") Baldwin; J. C. Carter, of Honolulu, who made fame for himself as the chief adviser of Queen Lilliuokalani both before and after the overthrow of the Hawaiian dynasty; Ernest and Benoit-Constant Coquelin, the French actors; Father John, the noted Russian priest, who exercised for a time potent control over Czar Nicholas; Géromimo, the famous Indian chief of the Apache times, who had been in captivity for many years and who passed away at Fort Sill, Okla., on February 17, at the advanced age of 85; Catulle Abraham Mendes, the French poet and mysticist who was killed in a railroad accident; Admiral Rojestvensky, the commander of the Russian naval forces in the last fatal sea battle with Japan; Carroll D. Wright, the American statistician, educator and president of Clark college; Manuel Amador, the first president of the Panama republic; Dr. Theodore Barth, the leader of the German radicals; Cervera, the admiral of the Spanish fleet in the war with the United States; Heinrich Conried, the noted theatrical manager, who had been conspicuous in his later years for his management of the Metropolitan opera house in New York; Israel W. Durham, the political organization leader of Philadelphia; Ethan Allen Hitchcock, former secretary of the interior and one of the originators of the land fraud prosecutions; Dr. Sheldon Jackson, a pioneer missionary in Alaska; George L. Lilley, governor of Connecticut; Frederick de Martens, the Russian international law authority, who had been an important figure in the deliberations at The Hague; Alexander K. McClure, the veteran journalist of Philadelphia; Helena Modjeska, the Polish-American actress; Lieutenant-General Henry C. Corbin, who was the adjutant general of the army throughout the war with Spain; Francis W. Cushman, congressman from Washington state, who had risen to an important position on the ways and means committee of the house; Don Carlos, the pretender to the throne in Spain; Clyde Fitch, the American playwright; Governor John A. Johnson, of Minnesota; Charles F. McKim, the architect, of New York; Simon Newcomb, the astronomer; Consuelo, dowager Duchess of Manchester (nee Vyagnal).

In addition to this impressive list were some

TOLEDO BLADE.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1909.

Largest and Best Weekly Published and Largest Circulation.

TOLEDO BLADE CO.....Publishers
ROBINSON LOCKE.....Editor

THE BLADE is a weekly newspaper for intelligent American citizens. It aims to cover each week all news topics of real interest to all wide-awake and thinking men. Its editorial page is one of the strongest and most thoughtful in the United States. Its special departments are carefully edited, and the whole paper is intended for the home of the free American people.

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The Weekly Blade has over a million readers a week.

Innocent men and bluffers court investigation.

Dr. Cook's discovery of Copenhagen is undisputed.

A grouch is a man who has forgotten that he was ever a boy.

It will please the little ones to know that a Chicago judge has decided that children are a necessity.

King Peter of Servia has been asked to abdicate. The Servians are more polite than they used to be.

When times change men and women should change with them. Living in the past is a lonesome life.

That new anesthetic should be a good thing to have administered when one is having a picture taken.

Andrew Carnegie is tightening the purse strings, having indefinitely postponed the job of dying poor.

Speaking of the ultimate consumer, a Missouri man is reported to have eaten forty eggs in six minutes.

A French scientist claims to have discovered a substitute for beef. Wonder if there are any bones in it?

There are men who can speak seven languages who are utter failures when it comes to setting up a stove.

"What is a nightmare?" a correspondent asks. A nightmare is a dream you hope will not come true.

Is it possible that the University of Copenhagen got the idea that Dr. Cook was trying to prove an alibi?

"A $20,000 diamond has been found on a Maryland farm." Nothing like diversifying crops to make farming pay.

There are more liars in the world than Theodore Roosevelt could shake a stick at during one term of office.

It is well enough that the Cook exposure happened before any babies were named in honor of I-took-a-shoo.

"Don't run after a street car or a woman," says one cheerful optimist, "another will be along in a few minutes."

Apples may not cure an alcoholic thirst, as claimed, but apple dumplings are certainly efficacious in cases of hunger.

A Chicago poet declares that large ears are a sign of dissipation. Thought it was the nose that gave a fellow away.

There is one tribute that may be paid to the sagacity of Aunt Carrie Nation. No matter where she goes, she never gets lost.

New York is old-fashioned in some respects. The city still maintains horse cars, and one of her women is the mother of 20 children.

"A New York physician argues that the brain is not the seat of reason." Then will he kindly tell us where the brain-storms originate?

The world is good to Theodore Roosevelt. He is to be given the right to wear a plumed cap and a suit embroidered with green palms.

Mr. Bryan says the Republicans are imitating his party. If he can prove that his party originated the idea of holding the offices he is right.

Statements as to the size of King Leopold's fortune do not agree. But however large it was he didn't take any of it with him.

The Globe tells of an Atchison woman who "keeps her shirtwaist and skirt together by sheer will power." Bet she can also make her husband jump through a hoop.

The world's population is now estimated at 1,685,000,000. Good idea for the man who thinks he's the whole works to paste these figures in his hat for occasional reference.

Mr. Carnegie says that if he were to go into the steel business again, the first movement he would make would be to inaugurate profit sharing with his men. Maybe he could find the old pay-rolls and divide with former employes. Never too late to do good.

AN OLD MAN AND HIS GAME.

Joseph Chamberlain, in a speech in Birmingham, in 1902, answered his critics thus:

"Gentlemen, what I have said, I have said. I withdraw nothing. I defend nothing."

This is the story of Chamberlain's career. It has mattered nothing to him that he is now fighting in the camp which once he charged so valiantly. It has been no part of his political creed to be consistent, to have a set of principles to which he fastened his hopes and aims. He was for Chamberlain, for him only. He withdrew nothing, because he did not have to. He defended nothing because defense had meant admission, confession, the compulsion to apologize.

The battle now waging in England is not all a struggle between lord and common, but is one wherein an old man, a paralytic, moves the pieces of one set of adversaries. If he wins he dies to the pleasant tune of praise. He will be acclaimed the greatest of British statesmen. If he loses, he shrugs his wasted shoulders, withdrawing nothing, qualifying nothing, offering no defense—and dies calmly unregretting.

NEWEST PLANT OF CIVILIZATION

You have seen the pocket of the silkweed burst and scatter its treasures to the winds. Think how our newest plant of civilization, the aeroplane factory, is growing these months, every cell of it busy, every fibre at strain, that the flowers may bud, the seed be given its precious germ of life and be borne away upon its wings, the most wonderful offspring that has ever sprung from the brain of man.

They say that as a matter of truth the aeroplane rattles and creaks, insults the heavens with fumes, making most outrageous fuss and muss about its flying. So if one is to dedicate it with poetry, now is the time to do so—before one knows the machine except through the proxy of the photographer. For, in the spring, there are going to be aeroplanes in this country to burn—and to smash and turn turtle and to drop lubricating oil and spanners. The cities are struggling with one another to get the meets of aeroplane racers. The county fairs will have no more to do with the parachute falls and the dirigibles. They demand the aeroplanes or nothing. Young men of adventurous spirits are ordering flyers, and so are actresses who need advertising, and millionaires to whom the zest of yachting and automobiling is lost. We shall have a chance to see the machine, learn its thrill and peril, its beauty and inspiration, its worth and its curse.

We take this chance to use a comparison that occurred to us when the feathered children of the silkweed were blowing by the roadside last fall. It might be altogether too high-flown a metaphor to employ when the aeroplane yanks down a mile of telephone wire in our street next summer.

MINING IN HONDURAS.

Consul Samuel McClintock, of Tegucigalpa, in a report to the United States government, intimates that mining in Honduras may be quite as profitable as the California campaign of the forty-niners, with all the zest of adventure and possible profit they enjoyed, and the eccentricities of old Spanish mining laws thrown in for good measure. Some of the consul's statements seem almost as sanguine as those of an author of the prospectus of a paper corporation with a salted mine to sell, but, of course, with no such inducement for possible misrepresentation. When the consul tells us that $3,000,000 in silver ore has been exported annually, he qualifies it by the statement that the figures should be taken only as the roughest indication of the amount of ore actually extracted, but that they are enough to show that considerable mineral wealth has been found. On the other hand, abandoned mines and discarded tools indicate that the operations have not been profitable for lack of transportation facilities, capital and experience. The country is richest in silver, but gold, lead, copper, iron, coal and other valuable deposits have also been discovered.

The mining laws of Honduras are based on the famous Ordenanzas de Mineria and give the allen the same rights as the native to denounce up to 2,400 acres for mining purposes and pay a yearly tax of $200 on it. More than 700 mines have been so denounced and the conclusion of the consul is that mining prospects are really excellent, but that, since little scientific prospecting has been done, the real condition of the country is not known.

MINE TELEPHONES.

As a step toward the pinnacle of progress, the Wheeling Register suggests the utilitarian and life-saving possibilities of constructing telephone systems in coal mines. The telephone would be useful in mines under ordinary circumstances, and in case of accident, no matter whether the victims be one or one hundred, its value to injured or imprisoned miners would be incalculable. To the men who jeopardize their health and lives delving for fuel that makes the country habitable and business possible, a mine telephone system would be what the C. Q. D. of the wireless is to ship wrecked mariners. If a miner were injured, it might bring relief sufficiently prompt to save a life. If miners were prisoners, as at Cherry, a message to the surface would make quick, intelligent and systematic relief work possible. A list of examples might be extended indefinitely. Every mine disaster in recent years would furnish its quota, all demonstrating the possible usefulness of the telephone to the miners.

AN INQUIRY COURTED.

A congresional' investigation of Mr. Ballinger's administration of the department of the interior was bound to come in the nature of things. Mr. Ballinger played "good politics" by anticipating the action of congress. In demanding an inquiry he has placed himself in the position of a virtuous official outraged by injustice. His willingness to be examined carries with it the idea he expects the fullest vindication.

The Blade is no warm admirer of Secretary Ballinger, but it still does not take much stock in the mud-slinging so enthusiastically indulged in by some of the critics. The association of the secretary's name with the names of certain promoters and land and mineral grabbers has been largely by inference. The writers have been sufficiently ingenious in constructing their arguments so the readers will draw conclusions the authors are extremely careful they do not draw themselves. There are charges, however, direct and unequivocating, which must be looked into—why special agents were taken from work which promised to uncover offenses against the government, why an assistant in the department was permitted to make a ruling which was properly the business of the department of justice, why appointments were made from among men said to be identified with the pillage of the west.

The reason The Blade and the average citizen, we believe, cannot look upon Ballinger as an ideal secretary of the interior, is his petty clinging to what is termed the strict construction of the law. He does not say, "is there nothing in the law which will forbid my doing thus and so," but "can I do this under the law?" It is as if a man questioned a policeman if he might walk in the street instead of asking if he should not. Ballinger had hardly more than assumed office than he threw open several thousand acres of land which had been taken up as forest reserve under the previous administration. President Roosevelt and Secretary Garfield having set the land aside on the principle that the public property could be protected by executive action where not specifically forbidden. Again, the new secretary decided that no schedule under the irrigation act provided for the issue of scrip, so that farmers could make part payments upon their acres by the labor of their hands on the engineering projects. It was another case where the law didn't forbid, 'd didn't grant formal permission. As a result, several of the irrigation works are held up until congress can vote more money.

It is this littleness of outlook and this attitude that the law should be mother to all action, should circumscribe and direct and instruct and furnish food and inspiration, which make Ballinger most irritating to the citizen who desires to see progress in the business of progressing. Congress may prove the man innocent of the wrongdoing as charged—and we believe it will, but a congressional commission will not thereby prove Ballinger an efficient secretary of the interior.

THE BLOUNTS' BUTTONS.

Professor E. R. Blount, of the Robert Walker high school, of Chicago, and his wife, Mrs. Anna E. Blount, who is a practicing physician, are engaged in an illuminating public discussion of the ethics of sewing on buttons. Mrs. Blount told the Oak Park club women that no man ought to make a valet of his wife, and that she required the professor to sew on his own trousers buttons.

To the extent that the professor does so sew, there is what the legal profession would call an agreed statement of facts in the case, but the high school instructor resents the sting of the implication that his professional wife is the actual, if not the nominal head, of the Blount family, and that he is meekly subservient and thoroughly domesticated. So the professor avers that he sews on buttons for ethical reasons, because he wants to, and so does his eldest son, Walter. Ethics is the science of human duty, and a part of human duty is sewing on buttons. Perfectly clear!

But, evidently, the public has no conclusive evidence as to who's who in the Blount family.

"THANK YOU, MR. ZELAYA."

The first official act of Dr. Jose Madriz, who succeeded Jose Santos Zelaya as president of Nicaragua, was the delivery of a verbal message to the people. From the balcony of his hotel, President Madriz pledged that he would uphold the rights of the people, grant free elections and establish a policy of equal opportunities for all.

If one hundred per cent of sincerity is contained in this speech, which was greeted with cheering and cries of "down with tryanny," "down with monopoly," and "long live the constitution," there is hope for more radical reforms in the administration of the government of the little Central American republic than the most sanguine of the revolutionists demanded.

But Dr. Madriz was Zelaya's choice for president, since Zelaya himself was forced to resign. Madriz was elected, not by popular suffrage, but by unanimous vote of the Nicaraguan congress, which also adopted a resolution thanking Zelaya for his services to Nicaragua. Though not specified in the resolution of thanks, Zelaya's conspicuous "service" to his country was the establishment of the iniquitous things that Madriz has promised to abolish—monopolies, tryannical subjugation of the people, and manipulated elections.

Nearly every important business in Nicaragua is a monopoly or exclusive concession granted by the government or its officials in consideration of large fees or perquisites. Zelaya's private fortune, accumulated under the system, is variously estimated at $20,000,000 to $50,000,000. Elections have been farcical formalities, and among the tortures inflicted upon men who dared oppose the authorities, was the red pepper and salt water mixture, calculated to force a confession of anything the government wanted an alleged culprit to confess, in order that a death sentence might be imposed with apparent justification under the law.

For all of which Nicaragua says, officially at least, "Thank you, Mr. Zelaya."

To the American mind, the ideas of government and diplomacy entertained by Central Americans generally are entirely incomprehensible. We sometimes know what they do, but not so often why they do it, or what of deceit, cupidity, fear and intrigue have influenced them. Only vastly differing climatic conditions make their lot much more enviable than that of the Russians under absolute despotism.

MOLASSES FLIES.

The sugar trust was not alone in reducing the business of beating the government to a fine art. The independents had their skilled hands also. They, too, played tricks with the scales, put customs weighers upon their pay rolls and, perhaps, employed their influence to keep an amiable set of officials in charge of the collection of dues at the port of New York.

The Arbuckles have returned the sum of $695,000 to the United States treasury and must take their place in line to defend their self-confessed pilfering from Uncle Sam. The National Sugar Refining company, the one which recently put up such a cry against the illegalities of the trust, is also involved in the sticky mess. It is said to be behind the government in unpaid duties to an amount close upon $1,000,000.

The sugar scandal amounts very nearly to national disgrace. But the airing of it should be of value to those men who think they can go down into the pits of dishonor and emerge without anyone noting the presence of a spot upon their broadcloth.

Canada is afraid Uncle Sam will annex her. But how can he do it if she doesn't voluntarily climb out of the second story window and fall into his outstretched arms?

LACE CURTAINS

Special Announcement to Subscribers Whose Time Expires Next Month.

During our last year's subscription season of ten months we gave to our subscribers for raising clubs nearly 15,000 pairs of Nottingham lace curtains. This has proved the most popular premium ever offered by The Blade, and we have contracted for an increased number for this season, which we will freely give upon terms stated below. We do not sell these curtains, but give one pair free, postpaid by mail, for every club of ten subscribers. The announcement we make this week is intended especially for those whose time expires next month. One month later we shall make the same announcement for those whose time expires the following month, and so on, each and every month in order.

We have these curtains made especially for our purpose—all of them being exactly the same pattern, so that subscribers getting pairs at intervals will always find them to match. Each curtain is 30 inches wide by 2½ yards long, and we always send two curtains (or one pair), postpaid by mail to each person awarded. The retail price of these curtains in local stores would be from $1.00 to $1.50 per pair.

How to Obtain the Premium.

On the first day of each month we shall mail notice to every subscriber whose time expires during that month, giving choice of several propositions for renewal. All who send us a club of ten or more subscribers according to proposition number 3 will receive one pair of these curtains postpaid by mail. By January 1st those whose subscriptions expire during January should have our proposition If not received by January 4th, drop us a postal and we will promptly mail a duplicate. We shall be disappointed if each subscriber does not renew under one of our propositions, as The Blade is the best and cheapest weekly newspaper in the world, having now a quarter of a million subscribers and over a million readers. While all should renew under one of our propositions, we shall be prepared for the majority to send us clubs of ten or more, and avail themselves of our curtain proposition. It will be noticed that we do not now make this proposition a general one to all of our subscribers at the same time. It would be impossible to serve all at once. One mill could not manufacture and supply us, except by regular monthly shipments, which enable us to take care each month of those subscribers whose time expires during the current month. We now make this offer to January subscribers only, and 30 days later the February people will have their turn, and so on in order of expiration. In this way we will be able to take care of orders with regularity, and all our subscribers will be served in due time during their expiration month. Remember, unless you accept one of our January propositions by February 1st, you will never have the opportunity again, because, beginning with that date, we shall deal with February subscribers only. In the meantime, if you do not renew, your name would be dropped from our list, and your address would be lost to us. We hope to have a renewal of all our January names and a large number of new ones as well.

INDEPENDENTS.

It is risky business to prophesy that the trusts can never hope to control the candy trade, for trusts do lots of things now one never thought they could do a few years ago. But we venture the assertion anyway, if only because the thought of plutocracy associated with peanut-brittle is repugnant this morning. We like to think that the odor of cooking sweetmeats will continue to perfume the doorways of the little shops always. It is pleasant to feel that, however uncertain becomes the age of eggs or the chemical constituency of milk, the caramels and taffy the younger members of the family study through misty windows will still look fresh and tempting. Machinery does make tons and tons of candy. Wholesalers do sell carloads of it in buckets and barrels and boxes, but the stores squeezed in between the hardware dealer and the cigar man—slaves of the trusts—manage to cook their few pounds of candy a day, succeed daily in delighting the palates of children and grown-ups. Long may they live and while living prosper.

CHRISTMAS UNINCORPORATED.

If any one thing more noticeable than another ushered in the Christmas of this year it was the appearance of so many warnings against extravagance. The holiday shoppers, we truly believe, were never before so cautioned, so advised. One can imagine the conscientious follower of these instructions attempting to tether the temptation to buy, attempting to quell the spirit of kindliness and generosity which goes with the season—and then, just as the hopeless sinner plunges from grace for the last time, opening the purse to its widest stretch and making an orgy out of the pursuit of presents.

In one of the short stories of O. Henry, a wife had cut her hair and sold it in order to present her husband with a watch-chain. The man had sold his watch that he might give the one he loved the best of all, a set of tortoise-shell combs he had learned she admired. "Let it be said that of all who give gifts these two were the wisest." The wonder and beauty of Christmas giving are in the giving, not in the nature of the gift alone. Nor need it mean sacrifice, but only that it carry good will and warmth of heart. Some of us must give with thought of how hard Jimmie is upon shoes, with counting of pennies that Aunt Susan be remembered or ancient friend and comrade saluted, but still the dull edge of provident giving is eased with little flights of extravagance, little soarings upon the wings of opulence. Jimmie is to have skates to go with the shoes, Aunt Susan a richer present by a dollar and friend something other than a Christmas card.

It will be a stupid holiday when we reduce its affairs to a formula. Christmas is beautiful because it is so marvelously stored with the sweetness of humanity, so free from that part of us which is selfish and cold and suspicious.

A TEST FOR ANARCHY.

The government of Argentina has undertaken an experiment which will be of unsual interest to all the rest of the world.

The chief of police of Buenos Ayres was assassinated recently and the crime was traced to an organization of anarchists. The government arrested 4,000 persons known to be avowed anarchists or suspected of being. They were all exiled, 400 of them, however, being sent into an unsettled corner of Patagonia. This detachment was told to set up a form of society as they thought society should be. They were given free rein, the only stipulation being that none should ever return to Patagonia.

The dictionaries define an anarchist as "one who advocates anarchy or absence of formal government as a social or political ideal." It may be that 400 human creatures might be able to avoid anything like a formal government if they scattered sufficiently in an open country. By keeping each to himself, each member of the community can provide his own law, his own customs, let his own untrammeled habits rule his life. But the anarchist is a gregarious being. He loves company. He delights in speech and conversation and the stimulation of loud assertiveness. The 400, one may be sure, will cling together. They may have some ideas at the beginning of an Eden ungoverned, but if they are to stay in Patagonia, if they are to live without theft and strife and bloodshed, there will be the formal government.

THE NEGLECTED OPPORTUNITY

A farmer in South Carolina planted 160 acres in cotton this year and gathered therefrom 163 bales. From 80 acres he took 3,200 bushels of corn besides 24 tons of fodder. He raised 25 tons of hay and from a single acre dug 350 bushels of potatoes. He has 25 hogs to kill and as many pigs approaching the killing age. This farmer estimates that his income this year has been $1,000 a month.

The hunger for land is becoming more pronounced every day. So far it has been the west and the southwest which has taken advantage of this real and definite desire for "a few acres and independence." The real estate men have promoted a big boom. Prices have gone soaring. Plots have been laid off in the desert, on mountain side, and even in the alkali strips which border the flood streams. Water, in whatever way it comes, is prized and fought for, is stolen and maneuvered for. The agent with land at less than $40 per acre is looked upon as a "cheap skate." He is doing business on a small basis. From $40 the price raises to $100, $500, $1,000, and we recently saw quotations at $6,100.

The middle west, the east and the south have been overlooking a great opportunity. We would not care to see land going to the largely artificial rates of the trans-Missouri west, but we would like to see some public movement which would attract the farmers to the abandoned properties of New York, for example, to the rich valleys in the mountain country, to the deep soiled and extremely cheap land of the south. Ohio could support a far larger farm population than it has now. It could, with intensive cultivation and a wider consideration of modern methods, have at least three farmsteads where it has one today. Perhaps it would be necessary for the states to take up the task of education, but it would be money well spent, money which would be returned manyfold.

EXAMPLE OVER THE BORDER.

Three groups of opponents to the scientific development of the inland waterways exist in this country.

One is the railroad interest, which dreads the competition of water rates, even though certain enlightened experts forsee profit to the companies from the relief that could thus be established. A second element is the dreamers who have played upon sectional pride and selfishness to gain endorsements of chimerical schemes, thus harassing the movement for wise and practical construction. A third class, the most influential of the opponents, is the congressmen who are fighting and will continue to fight any interference with the "pork barrel" upon which they depend for their biennial electioneering material.

It would be well for all of these blockading forces to study the way in which Canada is working out the problem of transportation. They will discover that at the same time the Dominion subsidizes the building of a transcontinental and Hudson Bay railroad it is engaged in deepening the Welland canal so steamers fitted for the deep-sea traffic can go direct from the lakes to foreign ports. While impracticable plans are waved aside, thorough surveys and estimates are obtained for the digging of a waterway from Georgian bay to Lake Ontario, a far-seeing consideration of the completed settlement of the northwest and of the possible crowding of the present lanes of traffic. The railroads, if they really desire to hamper the waterways development of Canada, have so far failed. The visionaries can talk to their lungs' content, but to no avail. The sectional politicians—and there are as many across the border as there are in this country—cannot impede a great patriotic movement which has the general good of the nation in mind.

SHIPS OF THE NIGHT.

When the aeroplanes become as common as automobiles, we will have lost one of our most prized mysteries. For the strange airship which flies at irregular intervals over the cities, which startles rural communities and puts the fear of eternal punishment into belated roysterers, will cease to be strange. It will go out of business. The excitement and comment upon which it feeds will be gone and it will pass into the dim recesses of forgetfulness.

One of the most entertaining of the airship's nocturnal flights was in 1896. It came as a welcome break to the racket of sixteen-to-one and the crime of '73. Anyone, from the silver Republican to him who was betting a full administration of shaves upon the result of the election, was entitled to interpret the light of the airship as he chose—as gold bugs distributing floaters, as Bryanites examining the lining of the clouds, or—as some did—as the Star of Bethlehem. The kissing bug absorbed the attention of the freak newspapers shortly and then the airship became no such thing. It reappeared in the midst of England's hysteria over the German invasion. Only a little matter, unpreparedness, prevented a declaration of war and immediate attempt to bottle the Kiel canal.

We have the airship upon our side of the Atlantic once more. It is a high-flyer and confines itself to journeying between Worcester, Mass., and the Liberty statue in the harbor of New York. We hope it will come out this way soon. It is really grievous to what a low state of efficiency has fallen the imaginations of the reporters for the yellow press. They really need a change in stimulants.

PEARY IN THE ANTARCTIC?

Peary is credited with making the statement that he was through with exploration. Yet, only the other day, he told the New England society of New York, that he would be glad to aid in the promotion and organization of an American Antarctic expedition.

This may mean no more than the bare words, or it might mean that Peary has changed his mind about polar trips. It is known that he still considers himself fit to withstand the rigors and hardships of extreme cold. After a life in the most open of open places he is hardly likely to enjoy the tedium of an obscure governmental position. Nor would he be likely to look forward to closing his career with a lecture course or the production of books. Ambition might have been satiated by the achievement of the fartherest north, but the habit of 20 years and more might still influence his thoughts and desires.

If it became known that Peary were actually prepared to undertake a journey into the Antarctic the explorers of Europe would be thrown into tremendous excitement. An Englishman approached within 110 miles of the South Pole, and is anxious that some one finance him for another expedition. The Belgians, also, wish to reap the glory of planting their flag on the southernmost tip of the earth. A French expedition is in the field. Patriotism would demand that one or several of the European governments outfit parties if only for the purpose of forestalling the Yankee.

An Oklahoma preacher drank what was alleged to be rat poison in order to prove that it was whisky. He lived and the jury decided in his favor.

John Busby, reliable weather prophet and astronomer, predicted that Christmas day in Toledo would be warm and sunshiny. Instead we had an ideal winter day, with a snowfall amounting to nearly 10 inches. Come again, John.

Talking Over the Ocean.

The prediction of a London correspondent that "within a few weeks" a man standing upon the Eiffel Tower in Paris may hold a conversation with a man upon the Mutual Life building, is probably premature. We may allow a little longer time for the development of wireless telephony to this stage of efficiency. But one would hesitate, in the light of recent experience, to set any limits to this wonderful line of invention or to speak of any achievement as impossible. Wireless telegraphy—that is, signaling by electric impulses through the atmosphere at enormous distances—was at first almost incredible. Every one could see its limitations. Already these limitations have almost disappeared. Wireless telegraphy is a matter of course. The sudden transmission of spoken words was still more incredible; yet only a few weeks have sufficied for demonstrations so complete that we already are prepared to believe anything possible. Perhaps the next discoverer of the north pole will have only to stand upon the pole and tell us that he is there.—Philadelphia Public Ledger

Noon.

Charmed into silence lay
The forest dimly lit;
No wind that summer day
Moved the least leaf of it;

No choric branches stirred
Its calm profound and deep,
Nor voice of any bird,
But silence dreamed like sleep.

Like dew upon the grass
It fell upon my soul;
Loosed to soar and pass
Beyond the stars' control.

Vague memories it woke,
Shapes far too frail for touch;
And then the silence broke;
Lest I should learn too much.

—Frederic Manning, in Atlantic Monthly.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

A BUSINESS MAN'S BOOK

International Sunday School Lesson for January 2 Is "John, the Forerunner of Jesus." Matt. 3:1-12.

BY WILLIAM T. ELLIS.

For the year 1910 25,000,000 members of the Sunday schools of the world will study weekly the gospel according to St. Matthew. No other piece of literature in existence will receive such close and widespread attention. The fact is a literary item of magnitude. This biography, for such it is, was not written by a trained literary worker, but by a business man. It shows the practical mind and diligent carefulness of a man of affairs.

Levi was the author's name, as he sat in the tax gatherer's office on a Capernaum highway, taking toll for Herod from the fishermen and from the rich caravans that traveled between Egypt and the east. He knew all the wiles of the tax dodgers, and he could squeeze the very last penny of customs dues out of the reluctant wallets of merchantmen. Of course he was hated and despised—the Jews loathed the men who hired themselves to Rome as publicans—but the business paid, and, conscious of his snug fortune, Levi could afford to shrug his shoulders over the unconcealed disdain of the people.

A Call and a Career.

One day Levi got a vision of life's higher, nobler possibilities, even as many business men are catching the same vision today. In this new light he saw that money does not make amends for dwarfed life. His deliverance and transformation and new name came through the teaching of an unconventional rabbi named Jesus. And when the latter one day bade him join the little group of learners immediately associated with himself, Levi straightway left all and followed him. In answering that call he entered upon a new and higher plan of life; men are elevated only as they heed and answer the summons to seek the concerns of the spirit.

Apparently this prosperous publican never regretted having forsaken his profitable business. Money ceased to have its old value in his eyes. His first act of discipleship was to give a lavish feast to his new master and associates. Then he became an itinerant sharer of the fortunes of Jesus. He was not a front-rank apostle. We do not find mention of any signal words or deeds done by him. Steadily, though, his spirit was being refined and elevated, and he was being made ready for the writing of the Life of his Lord. He wrote as "a Hebrew of the Hebrews," limning clearly the Messiah of the Old Testament. Nevertheless, he could not help producing a universal gospel because he believed Jesus to be the saviour of the world. It would be abundantly worth while to trace the development of the character of this business-man-author; and of the similar effect upon every other man, of allegiance to a great ideal. But we must hasten to the portion of the story set apart for the present week.

The Makers-Ready.

A picturesque bit of Oriental life is the sayce, or outrunner, who precedes the vehicle of a person of importance. I have seen him in Egypt, India and China. That function was fulfilled by John the Baptizer. He was the forerunner, the preparer, the maker-ready. All his great life was to be fulfilled in introducing One greater than he self. Some persons have thought his place in the New Testament history a pathetic one; it really is glorious.

Most of us are merely makers-ready. A sort of John the Baptist career is the best that can be expected by the average person. The mother (unless she be bitten by that madness which makes her subordinate home and family to a "career" for herself in church or society or literature or politics) must give up her life to making smooth the way for husband and children; through them she serves the world. The teacher is only a John the Baptist to his pupils. The salesman and bookkeeper merely further the output of another. Church officers do making-ready work, that the Message may have free course. The great boards of the religious denominations are but preparers for the spread of the Evangel. The givers who support Christian work stand in the same relation. Happy are we if, like John, we can say concerning the Main Issue, "He must increase, I must decrease."

"What matter, I or they,
Mine or another's day,
So the right word be said,
And life the sweeter made?"

The secret of peace, as well as of achievement, is to find one's own work and to fling one's life into it; knowing well that the success of the work is the success of all who contribute to it.

Heralds of a Better Day.

Our own time seems to be markedly a preparatory period. It has been making a way for some great event or era. Things appear to be converging. Highroads of all sorts have been wondrously built for some coming one. Consider the realm of religion alone. A multitude of agencies have been making ready for this new day of tolerance, brotherliness and unity. Railroads have been laid down over the whole earth, and waterways increased and cleared. The telegraph, the wireless, the ship, the newspaper, the marvelous interweaving of lines of communications, the unification of international laws and usages, the amplified flow of travel, leaving no remote corner of the earth untouched—what mean these modern preparers and heralds, if not to rear a highway for the entrance into acknowledged sovereignity of the king?

This sense of the significance of our own time, as well as of the sacredness of every life's mission, is seriously needed today. There are two strongly flowing tides discernible in our modern life. One sets back thoughtfulness, simplicity and spirituality; the other flows swiftly toward restlessness, superficiality, materialism. The latter is the more apparent of the two. Evidences of it are the worship of wealth, the eagerness for notoriety; the mad pursuit of diversion, the pathetic effort to ward off safety; the growing luxury in personal and domestic adornment and in food, the popularity of "problem" plays and novels, and the vogue of such common and inane mottoes as "Life's just one blanked thing after another," "Anywhere but where we are," "Nothing can be worse than this," and others more distinctly vulgar.

The antidote for this sort of thing is a John the Baptist sense of a mission. "Life means something," and it means it tremendously." "No man is born into the world whose work is not born with him." Such a magnificent life purpose as Jesus afforded to John and Matthew he still offers to every serious spirit today. Life becomes worth living when it is lived for something worth while.

The Anchorite in the Wilderness.

The cook who serves half-baked cakes is not so reprehensible as the life which offers the world half-prepared abilities. The old apprenticeship system has been abolished; and many young people foolishly aspire to become master workers before they have learned the rudiments of their calling. The schools which offer to train nurses by mail, or by a six weeks' course, are more illogical and more dangerous than the whole system of thinking which pervades modern society. In the older days, men took time to get ready.

John the Baptist went off in the wilderness to learn the prophet trade. He dressed in camel's hair and ate locusts and honey, not in order to be picturesque, or to make the crowds stare, but simply because that was the natural way for a poor man to live in the wilderness. He stripped life of all its essential trappings. The infinite calm of the solitude filled and steadied his soul. Could even the Baptist have become a prophet amid the complex life of a modern city? Somehow, contemplation of this lesson has filled my own heart with a great longing for the radiant peace of the Libyan Desert; I would be once more on the swaying back of a dromedary, with a contemplative Arab by my side, and with time and inclination for indistracted thought amid nature's teaching silences.

This majestic, rugged old figure of John calls us back to the duty of taking time for the things worth while. We putter too much and accomplish too little. Let us be brave enough for best things. Dr. H. Clay Trumbull wrote an editorial on "The Duty of Refusing to Do Good." It takes courage to be true to one's own call. Tennyson refused to be a social lion, and was criticised for his disregard of the amenities; but he left the world a great message, which it needs more sadly than it needs dancing masters. Who will be heroic enough to follow John, the anchorite into the wilderness, to learn how to live his own life back in the conventionalized world of men?

"Success is in the silences,
Though fame is in the song."

The Man with Something to Say.

In the wilderness, John came to self-realization and acquired his message. Some preachers are affecting the camel's-hair cloth and the leather girdle and brusque speech, without the message. But the message alone is the thing. To hear that, the world will seek out a man in the remotest wilderness. It will not shrink from the most fashionable of churches. Why is it that Philadelphia crowds flock every Sunday to hear Dr. Floyd W. Tomkins, while our down-town churches are almost empty? Simply because he has a message about God. He does not rehash the day's news from the pulpit, nor choose topics that will command space in the newspapers, nor have prologues or epilogues or stereopticon shows. He just preaches God to the hearts of the people, and the multitude which gathered in hunger goes away fed.

It was a plain sermon that Matthew reports John as preaching. First, there was the old apepal. "Repent ye." Then there was the warning, that the axe was already lying at the tree of hereditary religion, ready to cut it down should they prove unworthy of their fathers. And then there was the promise of the greater One Who Was to Come. John offered his time Christ. That was its need then; it is the supreme need now. As Richard Watson Gilder, who recently passed away, so beautifully wrote:

"If Jesus Christ is a man,
And only a man, I say,
That of all mankind I cleave to him.
And to him will I cleave alway.

"But if Jesus Christ is God,
And the only God, I swear,
I will follow him through heaven and hell,
The earth, the sea, the air."

Varieties

London has 1,050 postoffices.

The velocipede was invented by Wrais in 1817.

India has 744 newspapers and 973 periodicals.

There are now 5,400 members of the London stock exchange.

A flower cut in the morning will outlive flowers cut later in the day.

Sweden's increase in population last year was the greatest for ten years.

Sewing on buttons is not a wifely duty in Japan—there are no buttons.

Wild goats have so multiplied in Hawaii that they are now killed as pests.

The officers of the British navy alone make a formidable squad of 109,210.

Japan has nearly 50,000,000 people, more than half as many as the United States.

The dum-dum bullet is named after the place, near Calcutta, where it was first made.

The word "mikado" signifies something like "the sacred gate" or "the sublime porte."

Nova Scotia's apple crop will probably be not much short of last year's 700,000 barrels.

New York is not a city of spendthrifts, for its savings banks have 2,870,659 depositors.

Wheat exports of this country are declining because the home consumption is increasing.

Three out of every 100,000 people in England and Wales are sentenced to penal servitude every year.

New York city has more automobiles run at public expense than any other three cities in the world.

The annual growth of the forests of the United States is not more than 12 cubic feet an acre.

There are now under construction in New York city buildings which will aggregate in value about $106,000,000.

In the course of a year over 7,000 people are arrested by the London police are identified by their finger-prints.

An average of 13 persons a day who use the railroads of the country for footpaths pay therefor with their lives.

Several new Roman Catholic sees will be erected in the Philippine Islands as soon as their respective boundaries can be defined.

Japenese mothers do not kiss their children, though they may press their lips to the forehead or cheek of a very young baby.

Japan has one of the largest steamship companies in the world, with service to the United States and to England by way of Suez.

For every man, woman and child in this country there is manufactured each week more than 12 pounds of finished iron and steel products.

Chicago now has a law which makes traction companies return the fares to passengers who are on a car which is detained ten minutes or more.

Opinion of Paris says: "London is still a shop and factory. Paris is a drawing room turned into a kitchen, Berlin is a kitchen turning into a drawing room."

The average price of common brick at the kiln decreased from $6 in 1907 to $5.73 in 1908, while for vitrified paving brick the cost in 1907 was $11.02 as against $10.90 last year.

Japanese chopsticks are delivered to the guests in a decorated envelope. The two sticks already shaped from one tongueliike piece of wood are broken apart by the guest.

The greatest hindrance to the development of Asia Minor is the absence of bridges at three points where the Euphrates is now crossed by ferries. It is now proposed to build bridges.

Japanese inns furnish fresh tooth brushes every morning free to every guest. The brush is of wood, shaped like a pencil, and frayed to a tufty brush of fiber at the large end.

The average for each inhabitant of the public debt of Great Britain is $90.26, and it would require five years' revenue to equal the debt, which is now $3,944,950,000, on the basis of the $5 pound sterling.

The Lincolnshire (England) county court ordered a man, who was owing $90 to a money lender, to pay the debt in instalments of 2 cents a month, at which rate he will take 365 years to pay off the sum.

The bursting of a gas main in Horseferry road, Westminster, London, led to the serious illness of a number of the residents in the locality. The gas company provided the sufferers with medical aid and milk.

The owner of a good library solemnly warned a friend against the practice of lending books. He pinpointed his advice he showed his friend the well-stocked shelves. "There," said he, "every one of those books was lent me."

Members of the London stock exchange were trimmed by a faker selling "imitations" of common almond nuts at 2 cents each. But the "imitations" turned out to be real nuts, showing that brokers know more about melons than nuts.

Steam railways of the United States carry a large number of passengers each year, but the railways of New York city carry 66 per cent more than all of them combined. During the last year these lines carried 1,306,000,000 passengers.

There is a society in New York composed of negroes which gives a series of musical and dramatic entertainments in the course of the winter. These are usually timed to fit some historical occasion in which the negroes are interested.

The women of the Methodist Episcopal church in the United States are reported to have collected and disbursed $1,200,000 for home and foreign missions during the last year. Besides this, they raised more than $2,000,000 to be expended by men's boards.

The state railroad commission of Massachusetts has a knotty problem to solve—just what are the rights of a drunken man on a public conveyance. The question has been put up to the board by a transit company that has had more than its share of troubles and suits over ejected "tanks."

Marcel Prevost has written an article for a Paris publication on the subject of "Fashions of the Period" in which he discusses at length the methods employed by women to grow thin. He denounces them all as injurious to body and mind, with the one exception—rational exercise.

Mrs. David E. Lucas and Mrs. Mary E. Ide are the leaders in a movement to put married convicts at work on farms and to apply their earnings to the support of their families. Mrs. Lucas has offered a tract of 4,000 acres of land in Colorado for the use of convicts for five years.

Chicago's mounted policemen are pleased with a new "anti-skidding" appliance they are now using on their horses to prevent slipping on the icy streets. The device is of leather and fits over the hoof like a boot. On the bottom is a chain, which

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Be sure to give both the number and the name of the pattern and the bust measure also.

Address: Pattern Department, The Blade, Toledo, Ohio.

2532—Ladies' Shirt Waist, with link cuffs and with or without back yoke-facing. Heavy white linen was used for this model, the collar and cuffs being hand embroidered. 7 sizes—32 to 44.

3134—Ladies' Shirt Waist, with or without back yoke-facing. Adaptable to any of the season's shirtings. 5 sizes—32 to 40.

3141—Childs' Dress, with Guimpe. The dress closes at each side. Albatross, challis or cashmere would be pretty developed in this style, the guimpe being of silk or batiste. 4 sizes—3 to 9 years.

2895—Girls' Dress, closing at left side of front. Mohair in any pretty shade will develop well in this style. 4 sizes—6 to 12 years.

3133—Ladies' Five-Gored Skirt, with plaited flounce. An excellent model for voile in any desired shade. 5 sizes—22 to 30.

2738—Ladies' Twenty-One Gored Skirt. A good model for any of the season's suitings. 7 sizes—24 to 36.

3144—Ladies' Dressing-Sack. Pink-and-white striped flannel was used for this model. 6 sizes—32 to 42.

2632—Child's Underwear Set, consisting of underwaist, drawers and petticoat. Adaptable to any of the sheer white materials. 4 sizes—1 to 7 years.

3135—Misses' and Girls' Coat. Dark brown cheviot was used for this coat. 4 sizes—11 to 17 years.

2677—Ladies' Jumper Dress, with an attached two-piece skirt in sheath style, and a separate guimpe. Black voile with a cream colored lace guimpe would make up stylish in this model. 7 sizes—32 to 44.

2978—Ladies' "Gibson" Shirtwaist. A very neat model for taffetas or linen. 7 sizes—32 to 44.

2959—Misses' Shirtwaist. Madras linen, Indian Head cotton, taffetas or mohair all develop well in this style. 4 sizes—14 to 17 years.

3123—Girls' Dress, Consisting of an Over-Blouse Closing with Buttons on Shoulders and a One-Piece Plaited Skirt Joined to a Waist. Dark Red serge was used for this stylish model. 5 sizes—6 to 14 years.

2981—Child's Envelope Apron, Slipped over the Head and Closing with Buttons at each side. Nainsook, jaconet, Persian or Victoria lawns are all adaptable to this little apron. 5 sizes—3 to 11 years.

2972—Ladies' Seven-Gored Skirt. This simple model was developed in black broadcloth. 7 sizes—22 to 36.

3128—Laides' Skirt, Closing at Left Side, Having Two-Piece Upped Part, Kilted Flounce Lower Part, and with or without Sweater Fold. A good model for whalebone diagonal, serge, broadcloth or flannel. 5 sizes—22 to 30.

2137—Girls' Dress, Gray mohair trimmed with bands of red plaid make this a charming little school frock. 4 sizes—6 to 12 years.

2200—Boys' Overcoat. Dark blue frieze cloth was used for this little model, the collar being of black astrachan or velvet. 5 sizes—3 to 11 years.

3120—Ladies' Semi-Fitting Coat, in 42-Inch Length. Adaptable to any of the season's suitings. 7 sizes—32 to 44.

3140—Ladies' Semi-Princess Dress, with an attached Five-Gored Skirt. Black Voile was used for this pretty garment. 5 sizes—32 to 40.

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...W A NIAGARA PARK
...scape Architects Would Restore Scenery.
...ington, Dec. 22.—In the report ...committee of landscape architects ...recommending the creation of a ...l park at Niagara Falls, which ...nsmitted to congress yesterday ...he favorable endorsement of ...ry of War Dickinson, much de...cerning the committee's plan is ...

...committee urges that a strip of ...y be acquired by the United ...connecting with the state reser...at one end and extending the ...length of the gorge, embracing ...s, the cliff and a tract of land ...s than 100 yards wide, to be con...into a national reservation. ...set forth that all buildings with...strip can be destroyed or moved ...nder such arrangements as will ...the least hardship on private ...and corporations; that the veg...can be readily restored and ...within a reasonable period the ...area in the immediate vicinity ...falls and the gorge will return ...as possible to the original ...with the added advantage of ...ility. ...ditional legislation and agree...with the Canadian government, ...rsion of water for power pur...should, in the opinion of the ...ee, be kept in such limits that ...ressiveness of the cataract shall ...diminished. ...ring with the recommenda...r a reservation, Secretary Dick...eaves the question of its general ...and the acquisition of land to ...gment and liberality of con...

...ll be generally conceded," says ...tary, "that the preservation of ...le features of this great water ...an object which appeals with ...force to the American people, ...at object can best be obtained ...acquisition of such lands on the ...an side of the river as are nec...to the establishment of such a ...l park."

WHISKY IS WHISKY

Taft Gives Decision on Mooted Question.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The definition of the word "whisky" by the highest American legal authority was given today when President Taft rendered the final decision on the subject in connection with the construction of the pure food law with reference to labeling. The President held that whisky made of neutral spirits is whisky when reduced to potable strength.

According to the instructions under this decision "straight whiskies" will hereafter be branded as such, but the brand may be accompanied by the legend "aged in wood," and whisky made from rectified, distilled or neutral spirits will be branded so as to make known the principal ingredient. In addition, if they so desire, manufacturers of straight whisky may also use the words "bourbon" or "rye," as the facts may warrant.

The definition of "blends" is not made broad enough to include neutral spirits made from molasses and reduced to potable strength. This article, the President says, cannot be labeled as whisky; it is rum.

The decision follows the lines of the conclusions of the royal commission of Great Britain and reverses the verdict of former President Roosevelt, former Attorney General Bonaparte, Solicitor General Bowers and Dr. Wiley, chief of the bureau of chemistry. The Roosevelt-Bonaparte-Wiley order denied the use of the word "whisky" in branding to all liquor except "straight whisky," the whisky which is aged in charred oak casks.

"After an examination of all the evidence it seems to me overwhelmingly established fthat for 100 years the term 'whisky' in the trade and among the customers has inciuded all potable liquor distilled from grain: that the straight whisky is, as compared with the whisky made by rectification or redistillation and flavoring and coloring matter, a subsequent improvement and that therefore it is a perversion of the pure food act to attempt now to limit the meaning of the term 'whisky' to that which modern manufacture and taste have made the most desirable variety."

GUARANTY LAW INVALID

Federal Judge Pollock Finds It Unconstitutional.

Topeka, Kas., Dec. 24.—Judge John C. Pollock, in the United States district court here today, in a decision declared the Kansas bank guaranty law to be invalid.

Judge Pollock granted two injunctions in ruling out the law. One case was that of Frank S. Larabee, a stockholder in the Exchange State Bank of Hutchinson, against the officers and directors of the bank, and J. N. Dolley, state bank examiner. His contention was that a stockholder in a state bank can object and prevent the participation of his bank in the guaranty law. Judge Pollock upheld this argument in every particular.

The other case was that of the Abilene National bank against the bank examiner and state treasurer, on the ground that the state guaranty law is unconstitutional. Judge Pollock granted a temporary injunction in this case, holding the law inoperative, and fixed a bond of $50,000 to be given by the bank pending final disposition of the case.

STATE ASYLUM BURNED

All the Patients Are Taken Out in Safety.

Waterbury, Vt., Dec. 25.—Fire at the Vermont state hospital for the insane yesterday afternoon in this town destroyed three wards, causing an estimated loss of $100,000. All of the inmates of the instittuion were removed without injury and with little disorder.

PLANS TO MODIFY LAW

Taft Fears the Effect of Supreme Court Standard Oil Decision.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Serious consideration is being given by President Taft and leaders in congress to the question of the advisability of attempting to enact a federal incorporation act in advance of a final judicial decision in the Standard Oil dissolution case.

It is understood that Mr. Taft fears that business generally will suffer if the supreme court affirms the finding of the circuit court in the disolution case and that he strongly favors what might be termed "vaccination" of the body corporate by the administering of legislative remedy before the evil appears.

On the other hand, congressional leaders fear such a course would merely supply ammunition to the opponents of the administration by giving them an excuse to charge that the force of the Taft regime is being directed toward creating a shelter for monopolies.

To Protect Business.

If the President should submit his recommendations soon after congress reconvenes and should follow what is said to be his present inclination, he would ask for the passage of a federal corporation law without delay on the ground that honest business is menaced under the interpretation of the Sherman anti-trust act given by the circuit court decision in the Standard Oil case. While the President's view is shared by the leaders named, they recognize the fact that there will be serious opposition to any legislation apparently calculated to narrow the scope of the Sherman law.

They believe that the opposition is so strong that there would be a protracted contest over such a measure and that it would be the part of wisdom, therefore, to await the decision of the supreme court.

Taft Reviews Evidence.

Mr. Taft, it is said, has reviewed personally the evidence in the Standard Oil case with the result that he believes the decision by the circuit court correctly interprets the law; if so, he presumably expects that the decree will be sustained by the supreme court.

The understanding of those with whom Mr. Taft has discussed the case is that he could recommend the enactment of a federal incorporation law without becoming amenable to a charge that he was seeking to prejudice the supreme court.

That the present is an unpropitious time to send such a message to congress and that, no matter how cautious the President might be in the wording of his recommendation, a political issue will certainly be made of it, is the opinion of the Republican leaders.

NO MORE STARS THIS TIME

Statehood Bill Will Not Be Passed at This Session of Congress.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Statehood legislation at the present session of congress will not go beyond giving authority to the people of New Mexico and Arizona to hold constitutional conventions, if the wishes of leading members of congress dictate the policy. This program is in harmony with the message of President Taft.

During the last session of the sixtieth congress the house passed a bill to admit both New Mexico and Arizona as separate states. It was predicted that the measure would go through the senate in short order. Such was not the case, however. One meeting of the committee was held and the sentiment was entirely against hasty action.

Some of the members of the senate committee did not like the looks of some of certain land grants to individuals which had been received under territorial administration. Some of the claims for large holdings under Spanish grants were also viewed with suspicion. Futhermore the estimates coming from the territories as to population, both as to numbers and class, were not accepted and it was thought best to delay action until after the 1910 decennial census could be completed.

BIG MAIL DEFICIT

Hitchcock, in Annual Report, Tells of Efforts to Economize.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Confronted with a deficit of $17,479,770, the present administration of the postoffice department began its operations. This was the largest deficit in the history of the postal service. So long as the deficit in the department aggregated only a few millions of dollars annually, little attention was paid to it; but when, in the last few years, it leaped to upward of $10,000,000, and finally, in 1909, exceeded $17,000,000, "ordinary business prudence suggested that the causes be definitely located."

These are statements in the annual report of Postmaster General Frank H. Hitchcock, made public today. Concerning the results of inquiries into the deficit, the postmaster general says:

"Recent investigations have shown that the two great sources of loss to the postal revenues are second-class mail matter and rural delivery. The loss on second-class mail matter has been increasing for many years, until it now amounts to $64,000,000. The loss from rural delivery, a service begun hardly a dozen years ago and of unprecedented growth, reaches as high as $28,000,000. In these two items alone the postal service now suffers an annual loss of more than the entire national deficit of the last fiscal year.

"Simultaneously with the growing deficit in the postal service, the nation's income suffered last year a serious depletion incident to the financial depression. Thus it happened that the department's drafts on the treasury were heaviest at a time when the public funds were lowest. This has accentuated the importance of the postal deficit, making it conspicuous among the losses to be met by the President's plan of reducing expenditures in all executive departments.

"Since the opening of the administration the postmaster general and his assistants have adopted measures in conformity with the President's policy of retrenchment, and these measures are being put into effect with substantial results, as will be shown in this report. It should be stated with emphasis, however, that economy is not to be enforced at the cost of efficiency. Only such measures of economy will be adopted, therefore, as can be made a consistent part of a general program having for its chief object the improvement of the personnel, the form of organization, and the business methods of the postal establishment.

"The most striking fact disclosed by recent investigations is the tremendous loss on account of second-class mail. While this class of mail provides a revenue of little more than one cent a pound, the cost to the government for its handling and transportation averages 9.23 cents a pound. The annual loss thus incurred, as already stated, is about $64,000,000. The growth in the quantity of second-class matter sent through the mails has been extraordinary. Since the passage of the act of 1879 prescribing conditions under which publications may be mailed at second-class rates the weight of such matter has increased more than 1,300 per cent. Last year it amounted to over 700,000,000 pounds. By the weighing of 1907 second-class matter was shown to constitute 63 per cent of all domestic mail, and yet it yielded only about 5 per cent of the postal revenues. The loss on second-class matter was greater than the profits on all classes of mail combined. It exceeded the total amount paid the railways for mail transportation.

"Magazines and other periodical publications exclusive of daily newspapers comprise about 60 per cent of the second-class mail. The magazine alone form about 20 per cent. Magazines proper, because of the long average haul, show a cost of more than 5 cents a pound for transportation, while in the case of daily newspapers, for which the average distance of distribution is much less, the transportation cost is under 2 cents a pound.

"The annual loss on third-class mail is something over $3,000,000. The mail matter carried free under congressional franks cost the government annually about $500,000. A greater loss, about $2,250,000 annually, results from the free handling of official mail for executive departments other than the postoffice department. The annual cost of handling the free official mail of the postoffice department is estimated at about $3,000,000. If the several branches of the federal government were made to bear their proper share of the expense of transporting and handling official mail, greater care would be taken, no doubt, in the exercise of the franking privilege and some saving to the government would accordingly result. The wisdom of doing away entirely with the franking privilege or official mail has been suggested, but this is a matter for congress to determine. Such a plan would relieve the postoffice department of heavy expense it is now obliged to incur in the handling of free mail for other branches of the government establishment.

"The rural delivery service has developed in twelve years from an experiment, requiring an appropriation of $40,000, to one of the largest branches of the postal establishment, with an annual expenditure exceeding $35,000,000. The postage on matter mailed on rural routes is estimated at about $7,000,000. The importance of this service to a large number of people is fully appreciated. It brings the farms and villages into closer communication with commercial and educational centers. It encourages the improvement of country roads. By making rural life more attractive it stimulates agriculture. No doubt it is partly responsible for the increase in farm values; owing to the marvelously rapid growth of this service, however, it is but natural that defects have developed. The cost of rural delivery is probably much greater than it should be. Now is an appropriate time for considering carefully the conditions under which it is operated, for perfecting the existing organization, and for introducing such economies as are consistent with a proper conduct of the service.

"In so far as the rates ofpayment for transportation of the mails are fixed by contracts based on competitive bidding, there can be no doubt as to their fairness. The larger part of this item, however, is for payments to railways at rates fixed by law. The charge for this service during the past fiscal year was nearly $50,000,000.

"In one respect the postal service is susceptible of marked improvement. It needs a more effective system of supervision. Over 60,000 offices scattered throughout the length and breadth of the land are directly dependent on the department at Washington for instructions, for authority to make expenditures, and for supplies. It would seem to be an excellent plan to make large city postoffices the centers of convenient postal areas by giving city postmasters supervisory authority over the smaller offices of the neighborhood.

"The department's recommendation for the establishment of postal savings banks is earnestly renewed. As 98 per cent of the savings of the people are deposited in the banks of 14 states, the need for additional savings depositories for other parts of the country is apparent. Those portions of the United States now wanting in such facilities could be readily supplied through the instrumentality of a postal savings system.

"Of the vessels carrying mails to the Orient more than 70 per cent fly foreign flags, while not a single steamship now carrying our mails to Australasia and to South America except the north coast, flies the American flag. These parts of the world are of great commercial importance, and the maintenance of frequent, fast and regular mail service would be the first step in establishing closer trade relations with them. Contracts for service to these countries cannot be secured under the present law. More liberal remuneration is necessary. Legislation should be enacted granting adequate mail pay to American steamships on routes of this character.

"To provide a simple and cheap means of transmitting small sums through the mails, and to lessen the use of coins, bills and postage stamps for that purpose, it is recommended that a form of postal note or check be adopted, similar to the present money order, but issued for lower fees without written application in fixed denominations less than $10."

Suggestions are made in the report of means by which the public could facilitate the work of the postoffice department: Among them are these:

The equipment of every residence with a private mail box in cities having carrier service; posting heavy mailings early in the day, instead of the evening; the general use of a return address on envelopes; the prompt notification of postmasters of all changes in addresses, and the exercise of care in the proper addressing of all mail matter.

Some idea of the size of the postal service of the United States and the magnitude of its business can be gained from a brief review of the salient facts disclosed by the latest annual statistics. These figures show that the service now has about 325,000 employes, and that these employes handled during the last fiscal year nearly 14,000,000,000 pieces of mail. The number of postoffices in operation is 60,144. There are 26,652 domestic transportation routes, aggregating 448,618 miles in length, with an annual travel of 542,151,121 miles. A delivery service by carrier is provided on 40,628 rural routes, and in 1,440 cities and towns. Ordinary postage stamps to the number of 8,712,007,631 were sold during the year and domestic money orders to the value of $491,074,844 were issued. The total receipts for the fiscal year 1909 were $203,562,383.07, an increase of 6.31 per cent over the receipts of the previous year. The total expenditures amounted to $221,004,102.89, an increase of 6.07 per cent.

NO SQUALL, SAYS JAP

Baron Uchida Dilates Upon Happy Relations With United States.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Baron Yasuya Uchida, the newly appointed ambassador of the Japanese government to this country, succeeding the recently resigned Baron Takahira, arrived in Washington today from San Francisco, where he landed on December 17. The baron was delayed 12 hours in his transcontinental trip by snow and blizzard, which he encountered, he said, "from the Sierra Nevadas to the suburbs of Washington."

Baron Uchida began his work in the diplomatic service of his country in Washington in 1888 as an attache. He spoke today of the pleasure which it afforded him to come back as ambassador to the country where he had done his first diplomatic work.

"I feel very much at home in the United States," he said; "as though I am among friends, you know. There is no pressing diplomatic question for me to deal with in the United States just now, and I know of nothing of importance that will come up in the immediate future The relations between the United States and my country are growing constantly better. The friendly feeling between the two nations is becoming stronger every day, I think."

"What about the question of immigration between the two countries?" the baron was asked.

"That is satisfactorily adjusted," he replied. "We are keeping at home the laborers and poorer emigrant classes of our country and only students and members of the mercantile and other privileged classes are coming here. As a consequence, the number of Japanese in this country is decreasing. Our laborers are returning regularly to Japan, and none are coming to take their places here. The laborers return to Japan simply because of a desire to get back to their native land. There will be no problem to deal with in that connection in this country. The existing agreement with the United States on this subject has no fixed date of expiration.

"I was impressed with the welcome given me in California, where I met Governor Gillett, Mayor Taylor, of San Francisco, and the prominent men of the coast, and was entertained by them. There was nothing but cordiality and good feeling. There is no Japanese question on the Pacific coast now."

The baron declined to discuss the interests of Japan in China or Manachuria or the relations of the United States with those countries. There was nothing new to be said on the subject, he explained. He had been absent from Japan more than a month and knew nothing of the recent developments in Korea. He had read the newspaper accounts of the assassination of the Korean premier a day or two ago, but did not know what effect the act would have, if any.

The prosperity of Japan, the baron said today, was on the increase. More attention was being paid by public men to the financial and civic problems so that the country was rapidly recovering from the effects of war. As to the Japanese naval program, he had nothing to add to what was already publicly known.

TAFT STUDIES STRIKE BILL

Steenerson to Push His Measure in Congress.

Washington, Dec. 24.—"It is a very interesting matter and I will give it my personal attention," said President Taft to Representative Steenerson, of Minnesota, when the latter presented to him his bill and accompanying data looking to giving discretionary power to the government ot put railroads in receivership if necessary to avert or stop tie-ups.

Mr. Steenerson said today that the interview he had with the President this week was very satisfactory and that Representatives Esch and Townsend, of the house committee on interstate and foreign commerce, which will consider the bill, had talked with him on the subject. He wants the bill referred by the committee to the department of commerce and labor for its consideration, and announces his purpose of pressing the measure, though the crisis in the St. Paul strike has apparently passed.

DEWEY IS 72 YEARS OLD

Observances Waived Because of Admiral's Illness.

Washington, Dec. 27—Admiral Geo. Dewey celebrated the 72nd anniversary of his birth yesterday.

The day was passed without any ceremonial and except for a flood of telegrams and personal messages of congratulations nothing disturbed the serenity of the quiet household.

The admiral has not been in especially good health for some time and therefore all observances were waived.

QUESTION BUREAU

RULES—1. Your real name and postoffice address must be on the sheet with the question. Initials will not do. 2. Ask only one question; that is, there may be several questions on the same subject, but no different subject. 3. The editor of the Bureau is not allowed to give the address of any person or firm, nor answer as to the reliability of any person or firm, nor to tell where you can buy anything—nothing in the way of free advertising. 4. We reserve the right to decline to answer any question not of general interest to a majority of our readers. 5. We will not answer any question involving dogma or doctrine, or of Biblical interpretation; no prices of old coins or stamps; no arithmetical or grammatical questions. 6. Don't ask replies by mail. If a question is of general interest to our readers we will reply in print, but never by mail.

ANDERSONVILLE PRISON

Please give a short account of Andersonville prison.—S. C., Akron, Ind.

The prison at Andersonville, Georgia, was noted for its unhealthfuiness and for the severity of discipline caused by the lack of provisions and insufficient guards. At this place a very large number of Union soldiers were imprisoned during the civil war. Between February 15, 1864, and April, 1865, 49,485 prisoners were received. Of these 12,926 died of various diseases during that period. Henry Wirz, the superintendent, was tried for injuring the health and destroying the lives of the soldiers confined there. He was found guilty and hanged on November 10, 1865. The long trenches where the soldiers were buried have long since been laid out as a cemetery.

THE BENDER FAMILY

Will you please give an account of the Bender family through the Question Bureau?—T. H., Frankfort, O.

The Benders were a family of Hollanders who, in 1871, settled on a claim in the western part of Lafayette county, Kansas. They kept an inn on a lonely road leading from Parsons to Derryvale. The family consisted of John Bender, 60 years old, his wife, about 55 years old, Kate, 23 years old, and a young man about the same age, the relation of whom was uncertain. The house was a small frame, 16x24 feet, divided into two apartments by a cloth partition. It was usual for travelers to stop at the place for meals. It was so arranged in the house that when a traveler was seated at the table the curtain hung loosely behind him through which might be seen the position of his head. When anyone whom the Benders supposed had money or valuables upon his person stopped for a meal he was given a seat at the table in front of the curtain, and while eating the meal he was struck a blow upon the head with an ax or hammer in the hands of some one behind the curtain. If he was not killed by the blow he was killed later, and, after his pockets were rifled, the body was dropped through a trapdoor in the floor into a pit beneath, and from here it was taken away at night and buried in a rude grave in the back yard. For some time they had been carrying on their work of human butchery before discovery was made. Dead bodies had been found floating in the river, the cause of their presence unknown, but afterwards it was supposed to be the work of the Benders. In May, 1873, Silas Tate was passing the place and reported its deserted appearance to A. P. Dick, township trustee, who, in company with a man named York, began an investigation. York's brother, Dr. William York, of Independence, Kan., had disappeared while endeavoring to discover what had become of a man named Longcor and a little girl. As the men entered the house they were met with an unbearable stench. The trapdoor was discovered and opened, and beneath in a pit six feet deep was a pool of blood. In the back yard the graves were discovered, and the bodies of York, the man Longcor, and the little girl, besides those of four others, were found. The Benders escaped. Various reports were circulated about their being captured and put to death, but these reports were never confirmed. There also have been reports about some of the Benders being found alive in various parts of the country at different times, but these reports were found to be untrue.

CHARLES E. HUGHES

Will you please give a sketch of the life of Governor Hughes, of New York?—L. S. R., Saltville, Va.

Charles Evans Hughes was born April 11, 1862. He was educated at the Colgate university, Brown university and the Columbia law school. Hughes was married in 1888 to Antoinette Carter. Four years before his marriage he was admitted to the New York bar. He practiced law from his admission to the year 1891. He then lectured for several years. In 1906 he was nominated for the office of mayor of New York, but he declined. He was made governor of his native state in 1906, which position he now holds.

THE CABINET

Will you please give the names of the members of the cabinet of President Taft?—E. M. O., Whipple, O.

The members of Taft's cabinet are as follows: Secretary of state, Philander C. Knox, of Pennsylvania; secretary of the treasury, Franklin MacVeagh, of Illinois; secretary of war, Jacob M. Dickinson, of Tennessee; attorney-general, George W. Wickersham, of New York; postmaster-general, Frank H. Hitchcock, of Massachusetts; secretary of the navy, George Von L. Meyer, of Massachusetts; secretary of the interior, Richard A. Ballinger, of Washington; secretary of agriculture, James Wilson, of Iowa; secretary of commerce and labor, Charles Nagel, of Missouri.

DANIEL WEBSTER

Will you please give a sketch of the life of Daniel Webster?—W. S. A., Bronah, W. Va.

Daniel Webster, the American orator and statesman, was born at Salisbury, New Hampshire, January 18, 1782, and died October 24, 1852. He graduated from Dartmouth college in 1801. He studied law while teaching school at Fryeburg, Maine, and was admitted to the bar in 1805, beginning the practice of law in Boscawen, New Hampshire. He removed to Portsmouth two years later. Webster soon became a leader of the bar and was elected to congress in 1813, serving until 1817. At that time he was a moderate Federalist in views. He now settled in Boston and in 1818 rose to the front rank of lawyers by his plea before the United States supreme court in the famous "Dartmouth college case," which involved the obligation of contracts and the powers of government. From 1823 to 1827 he was congressman from Massachusetts, was chairman of the judiciary committee, and had attracted attention by his speeches on Greece and on free trade. He had become widely known as an orator. In 1827 Webster entered the senate and ranked chief among its orators. Clay, Calhoun and Benton were some of his contemporaries. Webster favored a protective tariff in 1828. Two years later he reached his highest point in the debate on the "Foote resolution," where his reply to Hayne won for him the title of "Expounder of the Constitution." Webster was often pitted against Calhoun in debates, and was, with Clay, highest in the Whig party. He came within reach of the nomination for President. In 1836 he received the electoral vote of Massachusetts. President Harrison chose him for secretary of state in 1841, and he—alone of the members of Tyler's cabinet—refused to resign in September, 1841. In 1842 he negotiated the Ashburton treaty with Great Britain and resigned the following year. In 1845 he again entered the senate. He spoke on several important questions during his term. In 1850 he was again made secretary of state, which position he held for two years. He received a few votes in the convention of 1852, refused to support Scott, and died soon after in his home at Marshfield, Massachusetts.

PHILIP KEARNY

I would like to have the Question Bureau please give me a sketch of the life of Philip Kearny.—G. L. C., Chetek, Wis.

Philip Kearny, the American soldier, was born June 2, 1815, and died September 1, 1862. He graduated from Columbia, studied law, and in 1837 entered the United States army as lieutenant of the first dragoons. He went to Europe in order to make a study of the cavalry service of the French army, with which he fought in the Algerian war. In 1841 Kearny was on the staff of General Scott, but three years later he resigned from the army. When the Mexican war broke out he enlisted again and distinguished himself. He again resigned from the army in 1851, entering the French service in 1859, where he took part in the war in Italy. When the civil war first broke out in this country he was appointed brigadier-general in the Union service, being given command of a brigade in the army of the Potomac. Later he was assigned to the cavalry of that army, and served conspicuously in the peninsula. He was commissioned major general of volunteers in 1862, took part in the second Bull Run, and subsequently at Chantilly was shot while reconnoitering. Kearny was a brilliant cavalry leader, being termed by Scott "the most perfect soldier" he ever knew.

TOM THUMB

Will you please give a short biography of Tom Thumb?—J. D. M., Holbrook, Nebraska.

Charles Sherwood Stratton was a dwarf, born in Bridgeport, Conn., January 4, 1838; died July 15, 1883. His parents were people of ordinary size. He was first exhibited as a dwarf by Barnum, who gave him the stage name of General Tom Thumb. He was then not more than two feet high and weighed less than 16 pounds. In 1844 Barnum took him to Europe. He accumulated a large fortune. He was married in 1863 to Lavinia Warren, also a dwarf. As Stratton grew older he became stout and his height increased to 40 inches. His wife afterward married an Italian dwarf, Count Prin Magri. Her stage name was as given above, her real being Mercy Lavinia Bump.

BERMUDA ISLANDS

Please give an account of the Bermuda Islands.—J. S. B., Aspinwall, Pa.

The Bermuda islands are situated in the Atlantic ocean, being about 580 miles southeast of Cape Hatteras. There are about 400 of the islands, but most of them are so small and barren that they have neither inhabitants nor name. They were first discovered by Juan Bermudez, a Spaniard, in 1522. In 1609 Sir George Somers, an Englishman, was wrecked here, and after his shipwreck, formed the first settlement. The names of the chief islands are St. George, Bermuda, Somerset, St. David's and Ireland. They are chiefly used as a naval and military station. The island of Ireland is occupied by a government dockyard and other naval establishments, while Boaz and Watford islands have the military depots. The military headquarters are at Prospect. The climate of these islands is healthy and delightful, the air being mild and moist at all seasons. Consumptive patients should not go there, though, for the climate is not adapted for them. The temperature is seldom below 40 degrees and seldom rises above 85 degrees. On account of this temperature, the islands have become a popular holiday resort for Americans. The surface is rather irregular; the soil, though light and stony, is generally rich and fertile. The islands form a nearly continuous chain and are connected almost uninterruptedly by roads, bridges and causeways. The water is mostly salt; there generally being little fresh water except that which is preserved in cisterns.

PELLAGRA

Please give what information you can relative to the disease known as pellagra.—N. P. S., Roswell, N. M.

The dreaded disease called pellagra is common in northern Italy, in the south of France, in Spain and in countries further east in southern Europe. It begins with an eruption on the skin, which breaks out in spring, continues till autumn and disappears in winter. It affects those parts of the surface which are always exposed to the sun and the air. The disease is accompanied or preceded by remarkable lassitude, melancholy, moroseness, hypochondriasis and not seldom by suicidal mania. With its progress and duration the disorder becomes more aggravated, with shorter and shorter intervales in winter. At length the surface ceases to clear itself, and becomes permanently enveloped in a thick, livid, leprous crust, somewhat resembling the dried and black skin of a fish. By this time the vital powers are reduced to a very low ebb, and not seldom the intellectual functions as well. The victim loses the use of his limbs, especially of the palms and soles, tormenting the victim day and night. To these severe afflictions are often added strange hallucinations. The disease, when advanced, takes the form of many other maladies, such as tetanus, convulsions, epilepsy, dropsy, mania and marasmus, the patient being at last reduced to the appearance of a mummy. It is mainly confined to the poor residing in the country districts, and is seldom seen in very young children. The cause of the disease is traced to the eating of altered maize, in whicha putrefaction occurs during the warm season.

ROBERT G. INGERSOLL

Will you please give a short sketch of the life of Robert G. Ingersoll?—W. B. G., Plains, Mont.

Robert Green Ingersoll, the American lawyer, lecturer and author, was born August 11, 1833, and died July 21, 1899. He received a common school education and was admitted to the bar in 1854. He soon became prominent in the courts and in Democratic politics. He recruited a regiment in the civil war and entered the army as colonel. In 1862 he was captured by some confederate, but was soon paroled and given command of a camp in St. Louis. He soon after resigned. After the war he became a Republican, and was made attorney general of Illinois in 1866. Ingersoll was a delegate to the Republican national convention of 1876 and placed in nomination for president James G. Blaine, whom hetermed "the plumed knight." His nominating speech gave him national reputation as an orator, and he afterward lectured frequently. Ingersoll was an agnostic, and in his lectures attacked the Bible and the beliefs of the Christian religion. He was prominent in politics for several years, and had he not given such frequent expression to his agnostic views he would doubtless have been honored with high offices. He took up his permanent residence in New York city in 1882 and practiced law until his death.

MAKING A MIRROR

Please tell me what substance is used in the coating on the backs of mirrors, and how this coating is put on.—C. C. C., Penn Yan, N. Y.

You can make a mirror from common glass. The usual process of silvering a mirror is to coat the glass with an amalgam. For this purpose a large, perfectly flat stone table is provided; upon it is evenly spread a sheet of tinfoil without crack or flaw, this is covered uniformly to the depth of one-eight of an inch with clean mercury. The plate of glass, perfectly cleansed from all grease and impurity, is floated onto the mercury carefully, so as to exclude all air bubbles. It is then pressed down by loading it with weights. In order to pass out all the mercury which remains fluid, which is received in a gutter around the stone. After about 24 hours it is raised gently upon its edge, and in a few weeks is ready to frame. It is desirable to have the lower end of the glass, from which the mercury was drained, at the bottom of the frame.

JOHN S. MOSBY

I would like to have the Question Bureau please give me a sketch of the life of J. S. Mosby, the American soldier.—J. P., Duffy, W. Va.

John Singleton Mosby, the American lawyer and soldier, was born December 6, 1833. He was graduated from the University of Virginia and then admitted to the bar three years later. He was engaged in the practice of law when the civil war broke out. He enlisted as a private in the confederate army and was later promoted adjutant of the First Virginia cavalry. But in two months Mosby was reduced to the ranks. He then offered his services as a scout to General Stuart, and while acting as such he guided Stuart's cavalry in a desperate raid on McClellan's army.

In 1863, after enduring a short captivity, he went to Richmond and recruited an independent body of fighters which soon became famous under the name of Mosby's Partisan Rangers. He was the colonel of this small band of men who did much to harass the union troops until they became a terror to them. This force was later pressed into the regular confederate army, and served till the end of the war. When not engaged in raiding the enemy's forces Mosby's men were concealed, but he had the means of calling them together on very short notice. Mosby's troopers accomplished several brilliant exploits in the course of the war.

After the war Mosby became a Republican and supported General Grant for the presidency. In 1878 he was made United States counsul to Hongkong, which position he held for seven years, afterwards coming back to this country, where he practiced law in San Francisco. He was also the author of several books relating to the war. He lives at the present time in San Francisco.

SCYLLA AND CHARYBDIS

Will you please explain the meaning of Scylla and Charybdis?—J. D. B., Houlton, W. Va.

Scylla was a daughter of Phorcus. She was changed by the jealous Circe into a frightful sea monster, and placed on a rock on the Italian coast opposite Charybdis on the coast of Sicily.

Charybdis was a woman who was changed by Jupiter into a dangerous gulf or whirlpool on the coast of Sicily. Reference to these appears a great many times in English literature.

MISCELLANEOUS

N. C., Holgate, O.: The report of the expenses of the country issued by the secretary of the treasury is too long to publish in the Question Bureau.

J. W. H., Santa Cruz, Cal.: Halley's comet has been seen this early by astronomers, but it will not be visible to the naked eye until about May of next year.

A. M. W., Angola, Ind.: We can find no reference to the people which you wish described.

P. H., New Bavaria, O.: You will have to see an attorney for the information concerning mortgages.

S. M., Haleyville, Ala.: The statement that you made saying that criminals were always hanged on Friday is not true.

H. F. K., Brookville, Pa.: Write to the land office at Gainesville, Fla., for the information you want concerning the Florida lands.

M. E. P., Garfield, Wash.: See a judge of the proper court in your state for answer to your question.

N. S., Marshalltown, Ia.: We cannot give an answer to your question.

O. H. C., Clear Lake, Wash.: In case of the death of both the president and vice president the members of cabinet hold the office according to their rank.

J. O., Athens, Tex.: The budget recently before the English parliament had to do with matters of finance.

C. W. Y., Romeo, Mich.: The constitution of your society should cover the points which you ask about.

L. M. H., Herald, W. Va.: The history of the Mayars would be too long to publish in these columns.

DECREASES THE DEFICIT

Cuts Duplication of Work in Postal Department.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Postmaster General Hitchcock has found one way to help decrease the postal deficit and incidentally the postal expenditures and will put his plan into effect on January 1.

The accounting section, division of finance of the office of the third

Happy new year to you, happy new year to you;
May the God of all mercies give blessings anew.

Holiday Household

ELIZABETH AYRES, Editor.

May our Father vouchsafe his most bountiful care,
To protect you and grant you a prosperous year.

OUR STOCK IN TRADE

AT Thanksgiving we are instructed to think of our blessings and give thanks. At Christmas we are expected to rejoice; and with the New-Year comes the advisory time when we are told to take heart of grace and make new beginnings.

The years roll round with a rapidity that awakens the impulse to exclaim, when the first of January marks the passing of the old and the advent of the new, "this is so sudden."

We have approached it gradually through the twelve preceding months, and yet it comes upon us in the nature of a surprise. "Well, here it is New-Years again!" we say, seemingly much astonished. "How the years fly, it scarcely seems more than yesterday since the old one began."

Of course the rapidity with which the years fly, depends upon how many times we have rung out the old and rung in the new; whether we have been busy and happy; idle and miserable; or whether we have had to suffer sorrow and misfortune. To the very young, a year is an age; to those who have lived long, or much, it is scarcely more than a moment.

In the commercial world, the first month of the new year is given over to a general taking of stock; a summing up of affairs, and a cleaning out of undesirable goods left over from the year just past. In a way, commerce makes a new beginning every year, and in almost the same way, we may take stock of ourselves and clean out that which is undesirable.

One need not necessarily wait until the new year dawns to make a new beginning, but "fresh starts" are in the atmosphere then, and it is easier to swing into line when there is a procession going.

It is strange how little we really know ourselves. We resent being told of our failings, but none is perfect, we all have them; if we did not we should not be human. And being human, into each life there come the joys and sorrows and various vicissitudes that make up the average existence. And there come, too, the failures and mistakes which bring about the sorrow and unhappiness. From these failures and mistakes, we may, if we are given light to see, read the meaning of their lesson, and having committed this to memory, "with the past all shoved behind us," press forward to something better.

You may say the "lesson of our troubles" is a threadbare platitude, but you cannot deny its truth. Hard experience is a severe but effective teacher—if we will be taught.

If the path we followed in the old year was bad, we have but to step out of it, try a new one, and forget to carry the past year's rut into this year's roadway.

Taking stock of ourselves may not be an altogether pleasant occupation, but you may be sure of this, the less pleasing it is, the more it is necessary. No despair or self-disgust need result from this stock-taking, rather, from it should spring the determination to clean out the bad stock and replace it with goods of the finest quality.

"The past year has been a horror to me," I heard a woman say, "but I don't intend to let the horror lap over into the next one."

There she had the matter of beginning again with the new year, in a nutshell. It is so foolish to let things "lap over," especially the "things" that do not really count when submitted to the test of examination. Examine your worries and it is more than likely you will find some you can manage to get alone without. You do not need them, either in your business or housekeeping affairs. If you have quarrels and animosities, examine the cause of these, too, and see if they do not spring from injured vanity or something kindred. Whatever their cause may be, cast them aside. They are but child's play; they have no place in the scheme of life; they are so little, so mean, so deteriorating.

"From all littleness, good Lord, deliver us," should be part of the ritual of prayer.

Life is a series of over-comings; a constant climbing of the steeps. We may slip back, in fact that is one of our "failings," but we may always climb again and keep on climbing till we wave our banners from the heights.

The lowlands are overcrowded. There is more room on the highlands.

I GIVE YOU NEW-YEAR'S GREETING AND WISH YOU MANY HAPPY DAYS.

—ELIZABETH AYRES.

New Year's Thoughts.

SUNDAY.

Whatever the message of the old year may have been, whether of darkness or light, joy or sorrow—enter upon the new year in the mood of hope and good cheer.

MONDAY .

Throughout the year, why not keep sweet? No frown ever made a heart glad; no complaint ever made a dark day bright; no bitter word ever lightened a burden or made a rough road smooth; no grumbling ever introduced sunshine into a home.

TUESDAY.

What the world needs is the resolute step, the look of cheer, the smiling countenance, and the kindly word.

WEDNESDAY.

Let me be strong to battle with the ills that shall beset me, to toil with faith and honest heart, to keep myself untainted and make my life helpful to my fellowmen.

THURSDAY.

Look not, O friend, with unavailing tears
Into the Past—look to the brave young years!
Look to the Future.

FRIDAY.

Keep before thee the idea of what thou wouldst attain. Thy steadfast thought will be a prayer, not a prophecy, working out its own fulfillment.

SATURDAY.

He who takes good care of the days, need give himself no worry over the year.

A HOME-MADE PORTIERE

A handsome portiere or couch cover fashioned after the style of the universally admired Bagdad may be worked out in burlap at very little expense.

Having chosen the desired shade for the foundation, measure the length (hemming at each end), and allow about 40 inches in width. Divide lengthwise into five equal parts by basting threads.

Cross stitch each strip with such yarns as may be desired; cream, terra cotta, blues, brick red, nile and medium green are all effective shades to use, while a border of black at each end sets off to good advantage the harmonizing tones. In almost every attic or store-room may be found yarns or worsteds very popular a score of years ago. These may be utilized, doubling the finer strands, or one may care to invest a small sum in quite new materials.

Be careful to make the stitches as neat as possible on the under side; when ready for service, hang the portiere from a dull black pole, with rings to match. This curtain needs no lining.—Woman's Home Companion.

SPONGING PLANTS

A small sponge that has been dipped into tepid water will free house plants of dust if the sponge is lightly passed over the leaves top and bottom. The sponge should not be too porous and only a small one is needed. It is surprising how much dust can be accumulated with it from rubber plants, ferns and large foliage plants, too heavy to carry from the room to wash them every week.

Pertaining to Weddings

OF GREAT antiquity are the sayings and superstitions pertaining to weddings. Nearly everyone knows a few of them, and, while you may deny superstition, still, when it comes to so momentous a thing as a wedding, you are more than likely to follow the guidance of some of these time-honored omens. The following old sayings regarding weddings and wedding days have been gathered from various sources and give full information pertaining to signs and portents attending weddings.

It is said that if the day chosen by a girl for her wedding proves to be rainy, her life will be filled with more sorrow than joy.

If the carriage carrying the bride should meet a funeral procession, the driver must be instructed to turn some other way. If he does not, fate decrees that she will not long survive the wedding.

To avoid the possibility of any bad luck on her wedding day, the bride elect should not assist in washing or wiping the family dishes, for if by chance she should happen to break a bit of china, it would be an exceedingly evil omen—the old record does not say what, but it would be prudent not to tempt fate, therefore, do not wash dishes the day you are married.

Gray is the color a bride should choose for her going-away gown if she wishes to wear what for ages has been considered the proper thing to insure good luck.

When the cake known as the "groom's" is passed at a wedding supper, the girl who gets the longest piece will be the first married.

Fortunately for the girl who weeps, it is a good omen for a bride to shed tears on her wedding day.

Snow falling on a wedding day is a good omen, as it is the prophecy of great happiness.

The good and bad luck months for a wedding may be ascertained in these lines

Marry when the year is new,
Always loving, kind and true.

When February birds do mate,
You may wed, nor dread your fate.

If you wed when March winds blow,
Joy and sorrow both you'll know.

Marry in April when you can,
Joy for maiden and for man.

Marry in the month of May,
You will surely rue the day.

Marry when June roses blow,
Over land and sea you'll go.

They who in July do wed
Must labor always for their bread.

Whoever wed in August be,
Many a change are sure to see.

Marry in September's shine,
Your living will be rich and fine.

If in October you do marry,
Love will come, but riches tarry.

If you wed in bleak November
Only joy will come, remember.

When December's snows fall fast,
Marry, and true love will last.

For the days in the week is this jingle:

Monday for health,
Tuesday for wealth,
Wednesday the best day of all;
Thursday for losses,
Friday for crosses,
And Saturday no luck at all.

Of course, everybody knows the proverbial:

Something old, something new,
Something borrowed, something blue,
And a gold dollar in her shoe.

These a bride must wear when she goes to the altar.

What the color of the wedding gown signifies is told in this:

Married in gray, you will go far away.
Married in black, you will wish yourself back.
Married in brown, you will live out of town.
Married in red, you will wish yourself dead.
Married in pearl, you will live in a whirl.
Married in green, ashamed to be seen.
Married in yellow, ashamed of your fellow.
Married in blue, he will always be true.
Married in pink, your spirits will sink.
Married in white, you have chosen aright.

Why rice is a usual accompaniment of a wedding is explained by this story: In the early ages doves were symbolical of peace and happiness. A bridal party in passing along a thoroughfare so frightened these gentle birds that they flew away in alarm. To avert the bad omen which their flight signified for the newly wedded pair, rice was thrown in profusion to lure them back. The strategy was successful, and the couple were so prosperous and happy that ever since rice has been used as a symbol of good luck, peace and plenty.

The orange blossom custom is said to be of Spanish origin. The legend has it that a mighty ruler in Africa gave an old Spanish king a flourishing orange tree. Its blossoms were the admiration of all who saw them and many begged for cuttings from the tree. The king invariably refused this favor, and among those he refused was a foreign ambassador who wished to introduce the blossom into his own country. By accident, the king's head gardener broke off a spray and gave it to his daughter. She placed it in her hair, and the ambassador, seeing it, offered her a large sum of money for her dowry if she would give him the flowers. She complied with his request and on her marriage, remembering the good luck brought by the orange blossom, she secretly broke off another spray and wore it in her hair. Her example has been followed ever since by brides of all nations.

Lastly, here are the wedding anniversaries:

First year, cotton. Second, paper. Third, leather. Fifth, wooden. Seventh, woolen. Tenth, tin. Twelfth, linen. Fifteenth, crystal. Twentieth, china. Twenty-fifth, silver. Thirtieth, pearl. Fortieth, ruby. Fiftieth, golden. Seventy-fifth, diamond.

LUCY'S WAY

One day as grandma was sewing beside the window the attention of her little 5-year-old granddaughter was suddenly attracted by the white hairs in her grandmother's head, and climbing upon a hassock she began to pluck out the whiteest ones. "What on earth are you doing, Lucy?" exclaimed grandma. "Oh!" replied Lucy, "I am just picking the basting threads out of your hair, grandma."

A SYMPATHETIC LISTENER

Adelaide's sister was playing a sad, plaintive air on the piano. Adelaide had been listening and she said to her mother: "Mamma, don't you feel sorry for that piece?"—The Delineator.

MORNING THOUGHTS

"AND A CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM"

By Eben E. Rexofrd.

I thought, on our marriage morning, that never a cloud would rise
To mar the brightness and beauty that gladdened earth and skies;
Never a minor cadence be heard in the blithe, sweet strain
Of the song that love was singing to the wedding bells' refrain.

In our little home under the roses we took up the tasks of life,
And love was our guest, and he strengthened the heart of each for the strife
By his tender and thoughtful counsel that brought to the time of need
Such boon as the sun and the showers bring to the quickening seed.

When the little one came to brighten our home with its winsome face
I fancied that Heaven must be lacking the charm that was round the place.
The sound of its mirth and prattle made music all the day,
And never a shadow gathered that it could not laugh away.

God knows—and God knows only!—how I loved that little child.
It was like a glimpse of Heaven when he looked at me and smiled.
And ever and ever, whenever I kissed the baby's eyes,
I whispered a "Thank thee, Father," for this gift from Paradise.

But one day the sweet blue blossoms of the baby eyes were missed,
And the heavy lids that hid them lifted not when they were kissed,
And the house was oh, so silent! for no pattering feet were heard,
And no echo in the shadows by the baby's voice was stirred.

In the lonesome time of midnight God's messenger-angel came
And bending over the cradle, spoke softly the baby's name.
Then the little hands were lifted, the blue eyes opened wide,
And into the face of the angel the baby smiled—and died.

We made him a grave in the garden under the lilac trees,
Where he loved to play and prattle, and hear the hum of the bees.
When we went back o'er the threshold home was a desolate place,
For the shadow of death had hidden the sunshine of baby's face.

So sad was the hearthstone after the baby had gone away
That I tried to lose my sorrow in hard work, day by day.
I fancied the baby's mother was glad to be left alone,
And, craving the bread of loving words, she was answered with a stone.

So it was that I, unknowing the need of a stricken heart
For love's balm in time of trouble, broke the bonds of love apart,
She thought me cold, unloving, and never once thought I
That a heart might break in silence, and so the days went by.

Now as I look back over that sorrowful year of life
I see the mistakes that made it a time of stress and strife.
God help our human blindness—God pity the heart that aches
When it knows—too late!—the sorrow that comes of its sad mistakes.

Like a rill that at first is so narrow that a step might turn it aside
But grows to become a river, mighty, and deep, and wide,
So the trouble grew till our pathways were parted by the stream,
And the love we had pledged each other was a half-remembered dream.

At last the storm broke fiercely, I know not how it came,
It may have been a fretful frown was like wind that fanned the flame.
It may have been that a harsh word kindled into a blaze
The smoldering fire of the passion that grew in those evil days.

Oh, words in hot anger spoken! They cut our hearts like steel,
But we forgot, in our passion, that human hearts can feel.
Forgot—may God forgive us!—the grave on summer green,
Where the link in the broken love-chain lay in the lilac roots between.

I never knew how it happened, or which one shaped the plan,
It formed itself, I fancy, as the things of evil can,
But we said that day, to each other, henceforth we would live apart,
For love could tarry no longer as guest in home or heart.

So it was that the night before Christmas Mary and I agreed
To seek separate ways on the morrow, and wherever those ways might lead
We would strive to forget each other and heal the wounds of the heart
By the ashes of love that deaden the pain and its cruel smart.

I stood in the lonesome twilight and looked down the garden way
Towards the little grave in the lilacs where the moon's white glory lay,
And I saw, kneeling down beside it, her face with tears all wet,
The mother whose heart was aching with the love it could not forget.

I know not what impulse moved me to go to the little grave.
I think that one of God's angels, sent earthward to help and save,
Laid its hand on my heart that moment, and lo! its anger fled,
And towards the grave in the lilacs I went softly, angel-led.

I heard the sound of her sobbing as I came near the place,
And I paused, apart in the shadow, with a rain of tears on my face,
And I heard her wailing, crying, "Oh, little one, how can I go
And leave you here—and leave you here, I loved you, loved you so!

"In all the world, my baby, this is the only spot—
Your little grave—that I care to keep, and I can claim it not.
Your father has turned me from his heart, and I may not even keep
For my own the place where my little one lies under the grass asleep!"

Almost before I knew it I knelt by the little one's bed,
And I stretched my arms across it, and wild, swift words were said,
"Forgive, oh, forgive!" I pleaded, "here by the baby's grave
Let us promise to love each other. Forgive as Christ forgave!"

I held my arms out toward her, I whispered, "Mary, come!"
And Love swung wide the heart's closed door, crying softly, "Welcome Home!"
And across the grave of our baby she crept to my arms again,
And I know the little one smiled in sleep, and dreamed of his mother then!

As I held her close to my bosom, and kissed her tears away,
Suddenly out of the silence the bells began to play—
The bells of the Christmas morning, that sang of a Saviour's birth,
And peace was the music's burden, "Be Peace, be Peace on earth!"

"Be peace between us, my husband," she whispered with a kiss.
"There was a Bethlehem Christ-child, but oh! be sure of this—
Our little Christ-child this moment swings the door of his grave apart,
And reaches his little hands upward to hold us heart to heart."

And so, on that Christmas morning, we put the past away,
And Love came back to the hearthstone, and there he dwells today.
And we loves to think, as we stand by the grave of the babe no sin defiled,
That into the beautiful Land of Peace we were led by a little child.

COLUMBIA .

BY TIMOTHA DWIGHT.

From a school book published in
Columbia, Columbia, to glory ar
The queen of the world, and the
the skies,
Thy genius commands thee, with
behold,
While ages on ages thy splendors
Thy reign is the last and the
time,
Most fruitful thy soil, most invi
clime,
Let the crimes of the east ne'er
son thy name.
Be freedom and science and vi
fame.

To conquest and slaughter let
aspire,
Whelm nations in blood and
in fire,
Thy heroes the rights of mankin
defend,
And triumph pursue them and
tend.
A world is thy realm, for a world
laws,
Enlarged as thine empire, and
thy cause,
On freedom's broad basis, that
shall rise,
Extend with the main, and dissol
the skies.

Fair science her gates to thy
unbar,
And the east see thy morn, h
beams of her star.
New bards and new sages, unriva
soar,
To fame unextinguish'd, when t
more,
To thee, the last refuge of vi
sign'd,
Shall fly from all nations, the
mankind.
Here, grateful to heaven, with t
shall bring,
Their incense, more fragrant th
of spring.

Nor less thy fair ones, to glory
And genius and beauty in harmon
The graces of form shall awake
stire,
And the charms of the soul ever
the fire.
Their sweetness unmingled, their
refin'd,
And virtues bright image enstam
the mind,
With peace and soft raptures sha
life to glow,
And light up a smile in the
woe.

Thy fleets to all regions thy pow
display,
The nations admire and the ocea
Each shore to thy glory its trib
fold,
And the east and the south yie
spices and gold.
As the day-spring unbounded th
dor shall plow,
And earth's little kingdoms bef
shall bow,
While ensigns of union in triu
furl'd,
Hush the tumult of war and gi
to the world.

Thus, as down a lone valley wit
o'erspread,
From war's dread confusion I p
stray'd;
The gloom from the face of fai
retired,
The winds ceas'd to murmur, th
ders expir'd;
Perfumes as of Eden plow'd
along,
And a voice as of angels ench
sung,
Columbia, Columbia, to glory ar
The queen of the world and the
the skies.

BARNEY McCOY.

Author Unknown.

I am going far away, Norah da
And leaving such an angel far
It will break my heart in two,
Which I fondly gave to you,
And no other one's so loving, i
true.

CHORUS.

Then come to my arms, Norah, d
Bid your friends in dear old
good-bye;
And it's happy you will be,
In that dear land of the free,
Living happy with your Barney

I would go with you, Barney, d
But the reason why I've told y
before;
It would break my mother's he
If from her I had to part,
And go roaming with you, Barney

I am going far away, Norah, da
Just as sure as there's a God w
adore,
And remember what I say,
Not until the judgment day
Will you ever see your Barney a

I would go with you, Barney, da
If my mother and the rest of th
there,
For I know we would be blest
In that dear land of the west,
Living happy with you, Barney

I am going far away, Norah, da
And the ship is now anchored in
And before tomorrow's sun
You will hear the signal gun,
So be ready, it will carry us awa

WATT'S CRADLE SONG

Tune: Come, Thou Fount of Blessing.

Hush, my dear! lie still and
Holy angels guard thy bed!
Heavenly blessings without numbe
Gently falling on thy head.
Sleep, my babe, thy food and rai
House and home thy friends provi
All without thy care or payment.
All thy wants are well supplied.

Soft and easy is thy cradle,
Coarse and hard thy Savior lay
When his birthplace was a stable
And his softest bed was hay.
May'st thou live to know and fear
Trust and love Him all thy days
Then go dwell forever near Him.
See His face and sing His praise.

POEMS REQUESTED

The poem called Blue-Eyed
Elizabeth Zane is asked for.
lines are in the last verse:
Talk not to me of Paul Revere,
A man on horseback with nothi
fear.

An old song called Brave W
much wanted.

We have a request for the
What's the Matter With Ha
Some of the words are: Hanna
sister, I call for you in love.

Young Ichabod Green is wanted
It begins: Young Ichabod Gree
Green Mountain lad.

The following are some of the
of a war song that is wanted:
Thinking of his own dear ones at

The old song called When the
Time Comes, Gentle Annie, is
for.

The Old Fogy Man is wanted
begins:
He was a queer old fogy ma
And loved old fogy ways.

These poems are asked for:
Broken Disc, Coming, In the
and The Engine that Santa Fe

Songs wanted: Watchman,
of the Night. We Are of the
Jessie. O, Dear Jesus, How Lo
I on Earth Have to Stay?

THE COZY CORNER

OUR MOTTO

Look up, lift up. Object: To aid, comfort, encourage and cheer; scattering sunshine along the way.

"A CHARGE TO KEEP I HAVE"

I give you New-Year's greetings and a wish that we may all work together in harmony throughout the coming year and years. This is first, last and always a home folks' corner, where home matters are discussed and the home-makers have their say, but aside from the various methods of housework and housekeeping, there are many other matters which come under the head of "home," and I want you to feel free to write to me of anything that may be occupying your minds.

Women think for themselves these days, and many an interesting letter may be written about what YOU'VE been thinking, that is one of the things I'VE been thinking. Give me your ideas; tell me of the things that interest you the most, and of the object or purpose you may have in life. Perhaps some of you hesitate to write because you think your letters will not be in correct form for publication. Don't hold back on that account. Give me your thoughts and ideas, and I will put them in shape for print. That is part of my business. Write often. There are never too many letters, and you may write without reserve, as I am the only one who sees the Household correspondence, and I happen to be a woman who is not inclined to do much talking.

In one of our recent letters was this: "I am afraid my letter will not help anyone very much, for I can only write of the things I know about and these are just every-day life at home."

That is exactly what we want—"every-day life at home"—with its cares and pleasures, its sorrows and its joys, and ways of doing. Every-day life at home is the best life there is when it is conducted in peace and pleasantness.

It may be, perhaps, that you have discovered the secret of this page. We try to have it an open secret, and I think you all understand our universal motto is, HELP ONE ANOTHER. If this were the universal spirit, none need wait to get to Heaven in order to be happy.

We are so great in number it is possible for us to spread this gospel throughout the length and breadth of the land. It need not be confined to this page. You can live it, teach it, and BE it, wherever or whoever you are. Each one of us may be a strong force for good, if we will, and with all of these strong forces combined, you can see for yourselves, if you just stop to think, what a powerful influence we may wield. It is something stupendous.

This is the New-Year's thought I want to put in your minds. It remains for you to hold it there. Each one of you is a part of a great power for good. We are a vast army, and, while we may never assemble, save in detached companies on this page, bear in mind we are so great and widespread in numbers, we may sweep the country from ocean to ocean. It is not yourself or your family alone you are affecting by ruling your lives with the Help One Another spirit; you are setting in motion something which spreads farther than we can reckon. So I ask you to take to yourselves, "loving friends and true," your part of the responsibility of the gospel we are teaching, and help me, while you are helping one another.

May the New-Year bring only good to you and yours.—Elizabeth.

THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR

I thought, like some of the Household members, that we had a beautiful autumn, and I was sorry that the beauty of the foliage was so brief. We have had Christmas, the brightest of holidays, and now comes the new year. In looking back over a year that has passed, it seems a short period of time We look back over a past year and its changes, as so much time and opportunity gone beyond our reach, and we hope the new year holds out to us new opportunities for good. We make a few good resolutions, and look over some maxims for rules of good conduct. I remember especially one thought on the Household Page at the beginning of the past year. It was, to so live that instead of thinking we were a year older, we would feel we were a year stronger.

It would be well to remember there is power in cheerfulness, and to guard our thoughts, tongue and temper. Thought is the well-spring of action. If we can control thought, we can control tongue and temper. Patience and kindness make the machinery of life run smoothly. When angry we cannot think clearly or plan wisely; though that which rouses the energies and clears the vision is sometimes misnamed anger.

It is well to think more and talk less. Much trouble would be avoided if many things were left unsaid. Guard the tongue, the unruly member.

One way to have good thoughts is to read good books. I do not read as much fiction as I did when I was younger. I used to read the stories first; now I read the articles first and then the stories. I do not try to read all of the modern novels. I think it would be a waste of time, though I have read many that I like, mostly in magazines. I will mention one by Booth Tarkington, called, The Beautiful Lady. In this story the supposed writer, a native of Naples, was attracted to the lady, an American, by her beautiful kindness.

My mind was diverted from my intention of writing more thoughts for the New Year, but not from making a few good resolutions, by reading the letters from Happy Medium and Caddie. I thought they came down rather severely on Sunny. As Samantha Allen says, I think she was "well meaning." I think there is something refreshing in this hurrying, rushing working world, in seeing some one take time to do something well. I am not personally acquainted with Sunny, but if she wants to keep out of the suds, I say that is her business.

Now to resume the book topic. If I were to tell all about my reading, it would look like a chain of "I's," and might not be especially interesting. McGuffey's old readers have been mentioned on this page. I think they contain fine selections. I appreciate their thought and sentiment more than I did in my school days.

I will not take time and space commenting on all the good things I find in the letters, but I liked the reasons Western Wonder gave in favor of woman's suffrage. I wish you all a Happy New Year.—Aunt Florence.

OUR CORRESPONDENTS

1909 was a pretty good old year with us—much obliged.

Don't forget to keep up your own subscriptions to The Blade and get more if you can. There are going to be "things doing" on Our Page this year.

Aunt Florence—Thank you for everything. Yes, the card was received.

For everyone who sent me a Christmas postcard I have more than a word of thanks.

In the Cozy Corner mailbox are letters from Little Mother, D., Fern Leaf, Milly of the Mountains, A Young Housewife, Charlotte, A Trained Nurse, and Daisy Dell.

HOME-MADE CANDY

Peanut Candy.

Shell a dime's worth of peanuts. Remove the thin skin and spread the nuts over the bottom of a dish that has been well buttered. Take two cups of granulated sugar and put it in a skillet. Keep shaking the skillet as you would in popping corn, but do not stir or add any water. When the sugar is melted pour the syrup over the nuts. When cool enough mark off in bars.—Jennie Brown.

Molasses Candy.

Put together in a porcelain lined saucepan two cupfuls of thick molasses—New Orleans preferred—a cup of brown sugar and a gill of vinegar. Bring slowly to a boil, stirring the syrup frequently. After it has cooked for half an hour begin to test it by dropping a little into cold water. When it hardens between the fingers it is ready to pull. Stir into the syrup a tablespoonful of butter and a teaspoonful of baking soda dissolved in a little boiling water. Take from the fire at once, pour into buttered tins for taffy or turn it into buttered dishes to be pulled. If you wish you can add nutmeats to the taffy.

The hands which pull the candy should be dipped in flour or lightly buttered. In these days I don't know how much candy-pulling is done, but in my young days a candy-pull was a favorite amusement, and there was great rivalry as to who could pull the candy to the lightest color and most brittle consistency.—Aunt Sadie.

DICTIONARY TRAVELS

SOMEBODY once wrote a story about a man who read every day a certain number of pages in the dictionary. The story was written in jest, but like many a jest, there was good sense in it. The modern dictionary is interesting, entertaining and informing reading. One may find in it a feast of reason and an effective aid to a defective education. It is a mine of general information, and the latest edition of a standard dictionary is something no household should be without.

In the January Woman's Home Companion is this story, telling of the discoveries a bright woman made in her dictionary travels:

"Most people regard their dictionary as a reference book, to be turned to when in doubt about how to spell or pronounce a word, or what it means. But to me it is a text-book for study, a compendium of interesting general information.

"The literary quotations are of the best in the language, many of them well worth memorizing. The distinctions between nearly-related words train the mind to appreciate these finer shadings and to improve one's manner of self-expression. The explanations of metaphysical and philosophical terms open up to me, at least, entirely new fields of thought.

"It has always been a most delightful hour to me when I find myself free to spread out my bulky tome in front of me and sail away on the big sea of knowledge. I call this traveling in my dictionary.

"The generalness and variety of the information is to me its principal value, for owing to the cares of a growing family I am unable to read as I would like to do.

"Take as example a page under C, that I read in my first free hour this afternoon. I found there in concise form the history of the calendar and its changes under Julius Caesar, Pope Gregory XIII, the French Revolution, etc. This included the explanation of some terms which had always puzzled me—ides, nomes and kalends.

"On another C page I encountered coin and mastered another set of familiar terms with unfamiliar meanings. I learned for the first time the value of our money in foreign coins, current or out of circulation, such as groat, mark, louis d'or, crown, guinea, napoleon, ducat.

"On another page under B I found a description and a sketch of a plant which gives its name to a classic American poem, the 'bittersweet,' which I had never seen. I also learned to classify the bittern among the herons, having had a vague conception of it as a kind of gull, and learned the meaning of bituminous coal. I read on this page, taken at random, 13 interesting quotations representing Shakespeare, Byron, Bayard Taylor, Swinburne, George Eliot and Tennyson. One of these fixed an important historical fact pleasantly in my mind, and two were food for spiritual inspiration."

MY WAYFARING FRIEND.

BY OLIVE BRANCH.

WESTBOUND train!" shouted the train crier through the doorway of the waiting room at Bohemia station. "Westbound train! All aboard for the junction!" he shouted again, and disappeared.

The crowd in the waiting room made a rush for the out-going train, and from the noise and confusion one would have thought that all the inhabitants of Bohemia City were departing.

As the passengers made their way to the train, large, feathery snowflakes fell from the sky and appliqued themselves daintily on coats and hats. Overhead, the wind played a medley of discords on the telegraph wires and mingled witches' music with the din of the voices below.

"A stormy night for our journey, I fear," said some one beside me.

It was a quaint looking old man who spoke. He wore a long, gray cloak much frayed and worn. A battered, rusty, old hat covered his iron-gray locks. A snow-white beard, partly concealed his thin, pale cheeks. His shoulders were stooped, as if from bearing heavy burdens, and he appeared to be feeble and infirm. In his right hand he held a dilapidated, old valise. It seemed to be nearly empty, but its weight appeared to be burdensome. Under his left arm he carried a huge volume with golden clasps.

"Some musty old philosopher," I thought.

I was about to offer him my assistance, when, just in advance of me, he mounted the car steps, rather briskly.

The coach we entered was well filled, but I secured a seat near the rear of the car. A pull at the bell-rope, a shriek from the engine, and the train moved rapidly away from Bohemia City, cut across the wide, white wintry prairie, toward the purple and amber clouds which hung like a splendid curtain before the closing day.

I must have fallen asleep while watching the sunset, for it was night and the lamps had been lighted when I was roused to consciousness by hearing some one say, "Pardon me for taking this seat beside you without asking your permission, but you looked so—so interesting, I thought I would like to make your acquaintance and journey along in your company."

The intruder was the quaint looking old man who had accosted me at Bohemia City. I could not but smile at his persistency in trying to make my acquaintance, and I answered good-naturedly, "No harm done. I believe we are all wayfarers on this road."

"You are going my way," he asked giving me a searching look, "and will undoubtedly change cars at the Junction."

"That is my intention," I told him. "I believe it's an important railroad trunk line."

"So it is, so it is," he agreed, nodding his head. "It is my destination. That is, I stop off—or I should say—"

He hesitated a moment and glanced at me with a sorrowful look in his dim eyes.

"I am expecting some one," he explained. "A friend will meet me there. "I'm glad," he muttered hoarsely. "Yes, I'm glad it is almost ended." He sighed and bowed his head in his hands. "A heavy burden it has been, a heavy burden. Yes, I am glad; glad it is almost ended."

"Poor old fellow," I thought, "you are certainly too feeble to be traveling alone, and you appear to be mentally unbalanced, too."

I took up my book and began reading, but was soon interrupted by another query from the garrulous old gentleman.

"Would you mind telling me who you have as a traveling companion on your journey?"

"I am quite alone, as you see," I returned, somewhat impatiently.

"You are much mistaken, my friend, I assure you," he said, very earnestly. "No one travels alone on this road. This is the Sunset Limited, you know, and no return tickets are sold for this journey."

My book was most interesting, and I wished my wayfaring friend would be silent, but he continued to talk.

"You have either the friend that sticketh closer than a brother traveling with you, or an enemy that like a roaring lion goeth about seeking whom he may devour, and he devours a great many, a very great many, for they have no armor with which to defend themselves. Is your armor in good condition my friend, or are some of the pieces broken and lost? Have you your helmet, the hope of salvation, clasped securely; the breastplate of righteousness properly adjusted; are you wearing the girdle of truth and the sandals of peace, and do you carry the shield of faith before you and the sword of the spirit for your defense?"

He gave me no opportunity to reply to his numerous questions but continued: "Clad in this armor you will reach the City of the King—the Port o' Home, in safety, for the king himself, has proclaimed: 'They shall see the king in his beauty, they shall behold the land that is very far off.'"

I was becoming quite interested in my wayfaring friend's remarks, when the train suddenly stopped at the junction. "Change cars," called the conductor, "for Alpha Point, Hartwell, New Hope, Truemansburg, Crystal Springs, Aurora Heights, and all intervening points along the way to the Port o' Home, the City of the Kings."

My wayfaring friend and I left the train and entered the waiting room together. It was near midnight. Here the tumult and confusion were even greater than at Bohemia City, as it was necessary for every one to procure a new ticket to continue the journey. Many were scanning the time tables for the safest road, some for the easiest route, some for pleasure resorts and new diversions, while others longed for the mild climate and fairer scenes they read of in the Guide Book of the King.

Several young men and women caused much amusement by purchasing tickets for Farmerville, Stockdale, Fruit Valley, Enterprise and Independence. They were a cheerful, independent class and carried their luggage with ease and grace.

Very different were a large number, from the country, who took tickets for Dangerville and Rapid City, and were not quite sure themselves, as to where their destination would be.

A few tickets were sold to Drifton Scandalville and Blueridge, but tickets for New Hope, Fair Haven and King's Ferry were in greater demand.

My wayfaring friend was restless and ill at ease and each time the door was opened he glanced apprehensively at the person who entered. I was loathe to leave him, he was so feeble and weary, but when the clock in the waiting room signaled the midnight hour he whispered to me hoarsely, "We've had a pleasant journey together my friend, but now we must part."

He rose and turned toward the door. I hastened forward, but another hand opened it from the outside, and, as my wayfaring friend vanished into the night, a bright, happy-faced youth came in with a light step. He lifted his cap from his sunny curls, held out his dainty gloved hand, and smiling sweetly said: "I wish you a Happy New Year, my friend. I am NINETEEN HUNDRED AND TEN."

M. G. R. AFFAIRS

We're face to face with another year. Who's afraid?

Has anybody any subject in mind they would like to have discussed in the M. G. R. column? We did some pretty good work in the past year and I believe we can better it during the coming one.

Read the first letter in the Cozy Corner; it is meant for this side of the house, too.

I'm thinking you have all been busy with Christmas business, as we have only four new letters. They are from Eng. T. Head, Elisa Triyillo, California Cow Girl, and School Boy of W. Va.

20 Beautiful Post Cards.
No Two Alike—Latest Designs
Lovely assortment of 20 Artistic Birthday, Friendship, Good Luck, Roses and Floral designs, exquisite colors, all for only 10 cents. Send quick, answer this ad immediately.
J. H. Sergeant
203 W. Eighth St., Topeka, Kas.

GONIZING ITCHING

a for a Year—Got No Relief at Skin Hospital—In Despair.

L CUTICURA CURED HIM

as troubled by a severe itching irly, scurfy skin on my ankles, rms and scalp. Scratching made se. Thousands of small red pim- ormed and these caused intense . I was advised to go to the al for diseases of the skin. I did chief surgeon saying: 'I never ch a bad case of eczema.' But little or no relief. Then I tried so-called remedies, but I became d that I almost gave up in . After suffering agonies for months, I was relieved of the unbearable itching after two or pplications of Cuticura Ointment. nued its use, combined with Cuti- Soap and Pills, and I was com- cured. Henry Scarle, Little Ark., Oct. 8 and 10, 1907."

Drug & Chem. Corp., Sole Props., Boston.

RATION WAS FATAL

derick Remington Dies Connecticut Home From Appendicitis.

bury, Ct., Dec. 27.—Frederick rton, the artist, died at his in Ridgefield Sunday morning ing an attack of appendicitis cated with aseptic peritonitis. Remington's illness, which was y a few days' duration, reached stage on Thursday of last week s physician, Dr. R. W. Lowe, in ltation with Dr. E. A. Stratton, of y, decided that the only hope an immediate operation. The on was performed at Mr. Rem- 's home on Barryva, in Ridge- by Drs. Lowe and Stratton on day, but from that time until ath there was no hope of recov-

operation disclosed that perito- had developed and that septic ing was considerably advanced bowels. Against all hope the s put forth every effort known to al science and tried to reduce to mum the terrible suffering of the He grew gradually worse and d came at 8:30 Sunday morning. progress of his illness was ed with intense interest by the of Ridgefield, among whom the s artist had become very popular his short residence. In spite of however, his death was a great to the community, for it was be- on the previous day that he was ing and that there was hope of covery.

ough a resident of Ridgefield less a year, Mr. Remington was one best known of the many famous ho lived in that part of Connec- Before coming to Ridgefield he ilt for the occupancy of himself s wife and their numerous friends tiful residence which during the few months has seen a constant sion of visits from famous art- riters and other well known and ent people.

artist was in his 48th year, was ive of Canton, N. Y., to which the body will be taken. The al service will be in the Univer- church at Canton at 2 o'clock ay. Mr. Remington married Miss aton, of Gloversville, N. Y., who es him.

derick Remington went west af- short apprenticeship as an office and became a cowboy on a ranch. s in this western life that he the subjects for most of his crea- of pencil and brush. Cuban were also favorites with him. s a member of the National Ac- of Design, and in addition to his g he attained considerable suc- t sculpture and as author of sev- ooks on western life. He studied Yale and later in New York.

Remington's father, Colonel l P. Rem'gton, was a distin- ed soldier in the civil war, and s time an editor in Ogdensburg.

Young Frederick received his education at the Vermont Epis- Institute, Burlington, Vt., from he entered Yale. The brief ss career, which he abandoned, d unattractive in view of his r desire to become an artist.

m childhood he had been at an artist, and the latent talent him was awakened by the virile n subjects which he encounter- fter going west. Returning to York with depleted finances he fame by his strong sketches rboy life, Indians, miners, Mex- and frontier soldiers. He cre- new school, and has, perhaps, more than any other man to per- the wild life incident to the ering of the west. His sketches from types on the Canadian r to the Apache of the south n desert. His drawings of horses are almost without Physically he was of powerful and was in rugged health most time.

K'S CLIMB A HOAX

t Is Report of Explor- ers' Club Committee.

York, Dec. 24.—The committee Exporers' club which has been stigating the claim of Dr. Fred- A. Cook that he reached the sum- Mount McKinley, today reported board of governors of that club after exhaustive investigation it illed to find any evidence to sup- Dr. Cook's claim.

committee said that it has made effort to secure information from ook on the Mount McKinley ex- on and that Dr. Cook appeared the committee October 17 last romised to submit data and other ation, which he failed to do, and the committee believes that he ely disappeared.

committee consisted of Anthony he Arctic explorer, and a friend Cook; Frederick S. Dellenbaugh, American Geographical society; Marshall H. Saville, of the chair haeology in Columbia University; G. Clark; Charles T. Towns, di- of the New York Aquarium; C. Walsh, secretary of the Ex- club, and Caspar Whitney.

ral members of the investigating ittee are members of the board ectors of the club, and the ac- ce of the committee's report, its reading this afternoon, is re- as nothing more than a formal-

Explorers' club accepted by a mous vote the report of its com- and Dr. Cook was expelled membership.

COND WOMAN M. D. DEAD

Sarah Dolley Took Degree 59 Years Ago.

hester, N. Y., Dec. 27.—Dr. Sarah Dolley, aged 81, the second wo- to take a medical degree from an can college, died at her residence this morning. At the age of 22 she graduated from the Roches- ed Syracuse Medical colleges, and appointed intern in the Blockley al, Philadelphia. For many Mrs. Dolley practiced in ster.

TELLS HOW COOK FLED

Explorer's Friend and Law yer Freely Admits He Is Disgusted.

New York, Dec. 27.—Charles Wake, of this city, Arctic explorer, member of the Explorers' club, and heretofore one of the staunchest supporters of Dr. Frederick A. Cook, has deserted the Cook standard.

Although loyal for several days after the adverse decision of the University of Copenhagen on Cook's records, Wake says that he was deceived by the explorer. He adds that he does not know where Dr. Cook is except that he is in Europe, although he is aware of Mrs. Cook's whereabouts, which he declines to reveal.

"Cook has had ample time to express himself since the records were examined," said Mr. Wake, "but he has not done so. So long as I live I shall never forget the degree of nonchalance with which he waved his hand toward the beautifully engraved degree and the handsome gold medal that had been conferred on him by Copenhagen and replied 'there is the best evidence.'

"I do not know who is caring for his children in a New York boarding school, but I presume relatives are doing it. How much money he made upon his trip and what settlement he has made of this I do not know."

The Mysterious Disappearance.

Mr. Wake says that he does not wish his statement to be taken as an attack on Dr. Cook, but he feels impelled to let the facts speak for themselves. He then recites his experiences with the explorer, among them the following interesting account of the doctor's disappearance:

"It was finally arranged that Mr. Lonsdale, Dr. Cook's secretary, should sail for Copenhagen with a typewritten copy of the records, on the United States, of the Scandinavian-American line, sailing on November 25, and that the doctor and his wife, carrying the originals, should sail for Genoa under assumed names, on the Celtic leaving on November 27. Lonsdale and his companion were then to take the originals to Copenhagen and Dr. Cook was to remain within easy distance of a call from the university. It was understood that the doctor and Lonsdale should come to my office at 3 o'clock on the afternoon of November 24, to arrange some of the details of Lonsdale's departure. To allay the anxiety of the doctor and his wife I had arranged with a detective agency to have him constantly shadowed, and the detective was at my office to pick him up.

"Here's My Chance," He said.

"Dr. Cook did not appear at the hour appointed, but Lonsdale eventually connected with me on the telephone away from my office and at 9 o'clock he met me and told me the story of Dr. Cook's disappearance. He said they came down from Bronxville at 2:30 that afternoon intending to go to my office. On their arival they found the usual array of detectives waiting to shadow them. They hurried through the crowd and saw o southbound Madison avenue car just getting under way. On seeing the car the doctor suddenly exclaimed: 'Here is a chance to get away from them, and I am going to take it. Come along.'

"They then made their way to the Pennsylvania depot by a circuitous route, and Dr. Cook took a train for Philadelphia. On the way to Jersey City he had his moustache shaved off and exchanged his derby for a soft felt hat. His parting words to Lonsdale were: 'Now I shall be able to get some sleep. Tell Mr. Wake I will write him, using the name of Harper, but tell him I trust him to keep this secret, along with the rest.'

"I was greatly surprised and at first highly incensed, and for the first time began to feel some misgivings. I concluded, however, that perhaps his mind might have been affected and that therefore he should not be held too rigidly responsible."

COOK'S RECORDS A JOKE, SAY DANISH SCIENTISTS

Copenhagen, Dec. 27.—Examination of Dr. Cook's North Pole data by the scientists of the University of Copenhagen revealed not only palpable deception, but an amazing lack of rudimentary knowledge of astronomy.

When Professor Stroemgren looked over the typewritten documents delivered by Secretary Lonsdale he saw no evidence of scientific proof of Cook's claim. Still it was thought that the original records would doubtless put a different complexion on the affair.

Days passed and nothing was heard from Dr Cook or Mrs. Cook. The commission, on December 17, held a plenary meeting at which Cook's typewritten records were put under examination. How utterly inadequate they were as proof of his claim to having reached the pole is perhaps most explicitly told by Commodore Jensen, who, in an article written for publication in the National Tidende Christmas said:

"Dr. Cook evidently was not possessed of the most elementary conditions of astronomy. If he had had any knowledge whatever he would not have asked a court of scientists to examine his material.

"In a very detailed list of instruments which Cook declares he took with him on his trip to the pole and which he clearly had no idea of how to use, nor in his description of the rest of his admirable outfit which is so complete that it includes even pencils, there is no mention of a single astronomical or nautical almanac and without such it is impossible to make any astronomical observations.

"It seems as though Dr. Cook were totally unacquainted with the variations of the compass. There is nothing in Dr. Cook's records to show that he made azimuth observations. In the Arctic regions, where the variations of the compass are most important, going to nearly 180 degrees, so that the needle, instead of pointing north, points almost directly south—the compass is of little use unless its variations are controlled at short intervals.

"When one realizes that Dr. Cook evidently knew nothing about the variations of the compass or the methods of control of them and yet set his course to the pole by the compass the most fantastic suppositions as to his wanderings are possible."

Commodore Holm discovered that Cook could not possibly have made use of the instruments he said he carried with him except the compass and pedometer, and Holm is sarcastic about the value of the latter for the purpose of recording the actual distances covered by Cook, as was Jensen about his use of the compass.

OUSTS LEOPOLD'S FAVORITES

King Albert Begins by Retiring Court Marshal.

Brussels, Dec. 27.—King Albert today accepted the resignation of Count Oultremont, the grand marshal of the court. This step is regarded as the precursor of the retirement of the late king's entire entourage. The king and Queen Elizabeth will take up their residence at Laeken castle next week.

Baron Goffinet, private secretary of the late King Leopold, on being examined today before a notary at the instance of the daughters of the late monarch, gave statements indicating that Leopold's private fortune was between $2,000,000 and $8,000,000.

HOPE TO SEND COLORADO WOMAN TO THE CONGRESS

Denver, Col., Dec. 24.—"A woman for congress."

That is the cry of the nonmilitant suffragettes of Colorado, who have the ballot and therefore are not raising the cry: "Votes for women."

The movement to send a woman to congress is on in earnest. There have been few, if any, public speeches on the subject, but in the clubs and in the homes the topic has been discussed. The abilities of various candidates have been talked over until now it is pretty generally settled that, if a woman does run for congress in Colorado, that woman will be Mrs. Sarah Platt Decker, former president of the National Federation of Women's clubs.

Mrs. Alma Lafferty, who is a member of the present Colorado general assembly, is also mentioned as a possible candidate, but Mrs. Decker's name is heard oftenest.

Woman's suffrage is stronger in Colorado than it has been since the franchise was granted in 1893. Several causes have contributed to a renewal of feminine interest in politics. "The cause" has been dragging here for several years. Women were showing less and less interest in Colorado political affairs. The vote was falling off years by year. One office after another that had been filled by women was taken away and filled by men. Still there was no protest, and the statement was often made that the women of Colorado had proved that they did not want the franchise.

Suddenly, however, there was a change. Ben B. Lindsey, the "kids' judge" of Denver, was the cause of it. "Little Ben," as he is called, had been shelved by the conventions of both parties in Colorado, as he had made influential enemies who were determined that he must go.

He ran as an independent candidate, at the last county election in Denver, for judge of the juvenile court, which he had founded. He appealed to the women, but those wise in political matters doubted if he could rouse the sex from its political lethargy.

But early in the campaign it became evident that Judge Linsey was shrewder than those who had counted on the indifference of women at the polls. The women of Denver felt that they had a real cause, at last. They held indignation meetings that alarmed the "bosses." They organized Lindsey clubs and made house-to-house canvasses, and when election day came they posted workers at the polls, who entreated everybody to vote for Lindsey. The result was that Judge Lindsey did what the wise-acres declared to be impossible. He got nearly as many votes as both his opponents combined. The vote of the women was the heaviest in years, and there is no doubt that it was their influence that put "Little Ben" back in the judge's chair.

The campaign in Denver had aroused all the women of Colorado. Since that time political interest has been stimulated by the episodes of the suffragette campaign in England, and the visit of suffragette leaders to America. Soon there came rumors of high ambitions from the political camps of the women. The women's political clubs in Denver began to settle. The candidacy of Mrs. Decker for congress was not officially announced, but somehow it has come to be looked upon as something that is bound to happen when the congressional election is held one year from now.

The Democratic women who talk politics and give afternoon teas at the Jane Jefferson club, had a congressional candidate in Ruth Bryan Leavitt, but Mrs. Leavitt on the eve of departing for Germany, with her children, announced that there was no intention on her part of running for congress. The Jane Jeffersons still believe, however, that at the psychological moment Mrs. Leavitt will come back to Colorado and make a race for the new honor that looms up in the foreground. In case she does not, however, there is another strong candidate available—Mrs. Lafferty, who has had much experience in the Colorado legislature, and who has drafted not a few of the laws to which the women of the state now point with pride as evidence of the power of the woman with the ballot.

Much has been said about the constitutional clause, relating to the election of congressmen, and the use of the word "he" therein. The women believe, however, that the word is used merely in an interchangeable sense and has no direct reference to sex. That is a question, however, that they are willing to leave to congress itself.

"The fact of the matter is," said a feminine political leader, "the women of Colorado have determined that they are going to get their share of the larger offices. They have just awakened to a sense of the powers and responsibilities in their grasp. The women who have been elected to the legislature in this state have been instrumental in bringing about needed reforms that have had to do particularly with the welfare of their own sex. A woman in congress would find it in her power to bring about national legislation in favor of women, and we are determined to put one of our sex there."

LAND OF HIDDEN RICHES

Governor Urges Development of Vast Coal Fields.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 23.—Early development of the great coal fields of Alaska in order that states on the Pacific slope may be furnished with a high grade coal at less cost than the product now brought half way around the world, and that the warships of the United States navy in the Pacific may be provided with a first-class fuel of American production, is advocated by Governor Wilford B. Hoggatt, of Alaska, in his annual report for this year before being succeeded by Governor Walter E. Clark.

Commerce between Alaska and the United States increased during the year, satisfactory experiments in raising grain and cattle were made, and the mining industries were successful and without recurrence of the labor troubles which materially interfered with operations last year.

Governor Hoggatt recommends the governor of Alaska be placed under the authority of the department of justce instead of the department of the interior, as at present.

Must Encourage Mining.

"Encouragement should be given those engaged in mining coal in Alaska," says the report. "Unless a way is found to open the coal fields of Alaska, the population will decrease and the unknown resources of the country be undiscovered for an indefinite period. Coal mining can be made a permanent and profitable industry in Alaska, and the establishment of camps will aid materially in the development of its resources. Mining of coal in Seward peninsula would mean much to the people living in that section, as the cost of fuel under present conditions is very high and the consumption per capita is very great. The mineral is widely distributed throughout Alaska and is found to be of very high grade in the Matanuska and Bering river valleys. Workable deposits are also to be found on Seward peninsula.

"No titles having been secured to any coal lands in Alaska, development of the deposits has not been made. Once titles to the lands are given to the locaters, development will follow rapidly, as transportation seems to be assured. Charges of fraud in the location of coal lands should be sifted and determined with expedition, and patents issued to those entitled, and rejection of patents promptly made to those who have in any way violated the coal lands laws relating to Alaska and the United States.

Urges Railroad Building.

"The future development of Alaska will depend very largely upon all-the-year-round easy communication between the coast and the interior. This naturally depends upon transportation facilities. There seems to be ample business reasons to warrant the construction of railroads from the coast to the Bering river and Matanuska coal fields, and to the copper mines in the Alaskan range of mountains. Beyond these points there is no present business to warrant capital, unaided, to construct railroads.

"If the government does not assume a part of the burden of interior transportation, we will have to wait for a permanent development of the interior of Alaska until such time as discoveries of the phenomenal mineral deposits will justify private capital in the construction of railroads.

"Gold mining is being successfully carried on throughout the whole district. The development of recent discoveries of veins carrying high grade ore have been very encouraging, and there seems to be a revival of interest in gold-quartz mining throughout southeastern Alaska. Discoveries of quartz carrying high values have been made in the Fairbanks mining districts, and a limited amount of development work has been done with encouraging results.

High Grade Gold Ore.

"High grade gold ores have been discovered on the Kenai Peninsula near Moose Pass, and on Willow creek, and the best of these prospects are being developed. Placer mining continues in a small way in southeastern Alaska, and the beach at Cape Yaktag and in Cook Inlet. This character of mining continues throughout the Yukon valley, and activities in the Fairbanks district continue unabated. Increased interest is shown in the prospecting in the Susitna and Kuskokwin valleys, and encouraging reports are made of these districts. A large number of prospectors and miners are in these districts, and it is hoped that developments in the new territory will be sufficiently rapid to maintain the production of gold for several years. On the Seward peninsula drift mining is giving way to dredging and hydraulic mining."

TO HELP POOR OLD WORLD

Scholars in Boston to Discuss Scientific Research.

Boston, Dec. 27.—What will undoubtedly be a long step forward in world betterment began today in the opening session of the sixty-first meeting of the American Association of the Advancement of Science. Today's meetings were preliminary to those of the next three days, during which the association will be split up into more than two score of sections whose range of subjects will extend over fields of scientific research.

The retiring president, Prof. T. C. Chamberland, called the assembly to order and introduced the president of the meeting, David Starr Jordan. This was followed by addresses of welcome from the two great educational bodies which are acting as hosts this year. President R. MacLaurin speaking for the Massachusetts institute of technology, and Dean William C. Sabine representing the president of Harvard university.

Some routine business followed, after which the general session broke up into 12 sections, which immediately organized in their respective halls.

"DIXIE" MOST POPULAR

"Yankee Doodle" Second in Favor as War Song

Washington, D. C., Dec. 24.—Eminent musical authority proclaimed Dixie the most popular patriotic song in America. Yankee Doodle comes next in public favor.

Such is the verdict of O. G. T. Sonneck, chief of the division of music of the library of congress, who has just issued from the government press an exhaustive report on four famous American musical compositions.

"Yankee Doodle," he says, "though no longer a national song, is still a national air and second only to Dixie in the popularity contest.

The origin and evolution of Yankee Doodle, Star Spangled Banner, Hail Columbia, and America are treated in full detail in Mr. Sonneck's volume, and fac-similes of the original manuscripts are given.

Daniel Decatur Emmett died in poverty at Mount Vernon, O., three years ago. He had written many songs in his day. His greatest were Dixie, and Old Dan Tucker. He received $500 for Dixie and $100 for Old Dan Tucker. Charles K. Harris made $50,000 from After the Ball. The contrast is a striking one.

In 1859 Emmett was singing with Dan Bryant's negro minstrels on lower Broadway in New York. The show had been dragging and Bryant thought he saw disaster ahead. One Saturday he told Emmett that he must have a new negro "walk around" by Monday night. It was a rainy Sunday and Emmett shut himself up in a room with his violin. When he came out he brought Dixie with him. It caught on instantly, and all New York was whistling it within a week.

Its adaptation nearly two years later as a war song of the south was an incident. Mrs. John Wood was appearing at the New Orleans Varieties theatre in Pocahontas. On account of the approaching war a zouave drill was introduced into the show. The orchestra leader tried over several airs for the march, and finally hit upon Dixie.

The war cloud burst the next week, and from New Orleans Dixie spread over all the south. In the north Fanny J. Crosby, the hymn writer, wrote a song Dixie which was strongly union in sentiment, but the other side had pre-empted the air.

The history of Yankee Doodle is described by Mr. Senneck as "A perfect maze of conflicting stories," and countless additions to and variations from the original.

As many as 14 variations of The Star Spangled Banner are noted, accompanied by a gradual process of polishing and modification.

The year in which America was first sung in public is given as 1832, but the exact place and the date were not definitely acertained.

Hail Columbia is strictly a product of the United States in both words and music, in contradistinction to America and The Star Spangled Banner, both of which partly originated in England.

WOMEN BELIEVE COOK

United States Minister to Denmark Says They Are Loyal Friends.

New York, Dec. 22.—"The ladies of Denmark will never believe that Dr. Cook was wrong, and my daughter, who is with me, will weep when she hears the report," said Dr. Maurice F. Egan, American minister to Denmark, whom the Danes now partly blame for his strong partisanship of Dr. Cook which led them to recognize the American explorer as the discoverer of the North Pole.

Dr. Egan reached here today on the steamship Oscar II., and will remain during the holidays, talked freely regarding his own part in the enthusiastic reception of Dr. Cook at Copenhagen which led to the acclaim of Dr. Cook as a hero all over the civilized world.

"What I did for Dr. Cook," said the minister, "I don't believe influenced the Danes appreciably in their reception of the explorer. Cook reached Copenhagen with a story of polar conquest which there was then no reason to doubt. Danish explorers vouched for Cook's standing in the world of discovery and received him with open arms. I myself welcomed him not only as an American seeking civilization after harrowing experiences and needing assistance, but as a citizen who, from his own then undisputed story had accomplished a great task.

"Officially I did practically nothing for Cook but to supply him with clothing and give him a small reception which newspaper men attended. His presentation to the king came about as a result of the crown prince's desire to meet the explorer. At the prince's request I took Cook to the palace, where he met the members of the royal family. It can hardly be denied that the fact that Cook was an American helped him gain immediate credit for his story, for the Danish people are great admirers of Americans."

According to the decision of the University of Copenhagen against Dr. Cook, Minister Egan said that the finding of the Danish institution was, of course, final, unless the matter should again be opened by the presentation of the material said to have been left by the explorer at Etah.

"The Danes," said he, "are the most competent judges in such matters and I am forced to accept their opinion. I can't, however, bring myself to believe that Dr. Cook set out to deceive the world. I still think that Cook is an honest man who believes he had accomplished what he claimed and must have been mistaken through lack of scientific knowledge."

PEOPLE OF DENMARK KEENLY FEEL INSULT

Copenhagen, Dec. 22.—The morning papers generally find comfort for the Cook affair in the thought that the only fault that may be charged against the Danes is that they accepted the explorer's word as that of a gentleman.

The Politiken says: "Frankly, we regret only that an honorary degree was bestowed upon this man by the University of Copenhagen. But some members of the University council advised against the action taken."

The Kothenhaven says: "Cook's abasing of our university is his greatest shame. Fortunately the University itself tells the world of its mistake."

Other papers recall that all the Scandinavian explorers who were acquainted with Cook supported him, and insist that under the circumstances any other city would have given the explorer a similar reception. They intimate that at the time other cities envied Copenhagen its opportunity to first welcome and honor him.

Knud Rasmussen, the explorer and scientist, who from the first was a supporter of Cook's claims, said:

"The university would not call me at first because I was one of Dr. Cook's strongest supporters. Later, however, I was invited to the investigation, and when I saw the observations I realized it was a scandal. My confidence in Cook had been based on personal impressions, on reports that I had received, and also on the testimony of the Eskimos, when they all said that he had made the trip from Cape Sparbo to Etah, and such a trip during the dark of winter would suffice to make a man famous. But the papers which Cook sent to Copenhagen University are most impudent. No school boy could make such calculations. It is a most childish attempt at cheating. Cook has killed himself by his own foolish acts."

Commodore Hovgaard, the explorer, said: "Although it has not been proved that he did not reach the pole, I candidly regard Cook now as an imposter."

ANOTHER COOK EXPOSE

Now It's Said Dane Wrote Story for Him.

New York, Dec. 24.—Captain Loose, the competent navigator, who made affidavit a few days ago that he took Dr. Cook from Bronxville to the pole and back again without causing the explorer the discomfort even of putting his foot outside the door of the Gramatan Inn, cannot claim priority to the discovery of Dr. Cook.

A young Danish journalist and publicity man saw him first, according to information developed today, and embarked on a literary and scientific job under the flag of the Cook Borealis club before even the pole finder left the comfortable capital of Denmark.

A Danish law student, whose father holds high ofice under the king at home and who is at present spending some time in study in New York said today he knew that a hustling publicity man of Copenhagen who, although a Dane, was thoroughly fluent in the use of English, had written for Dr. Cook, in Copenhagen, the long account of the journey to the pole which appeared in a newspaper in New York and one in Chicago during the month of September under Cook's name.

He added that he had seen adequate proof that this publicity man was ordered by Cook to write this story and had been paid for his services by the explorer.

This report about the assistance which Cook received in his first literary labors would seem to bear out statements appearing in a Belgian newspaper in the month of October.

Henry Arcktowski, who was a companion of Cook on the Belgian expedition to the Antarctic, in writing criticisms of Cook's claims to having discovered the pole, stated that the whole Cook propaganda had been the work of a clever publicity agent in Copenhagen.

Without this assistance, the critic said, Cook could not have encountered the well ordered public demonstration nor have been made the recipient of so many private honors.

TRAVELS FAR TO FREEZE

New Hampshire Farmer Is Found Dead in Colorado.

Glenwood Springs, Colo., Dec. 24.—Frank C. Livingston, an attorney from Manchester, N. H., arrived here today and positively identified the body of the man found frozen to death near Minturn Monday as that of Melvin Kilton, an aged farmer of Canaan, N. H. Mr. Livingston started east with the body tonight.

MANY ARE DROWNED IN EASTERN STORM

Sixteen Lives Are Lost in Boston, Eighteen in New York, Five in Philadelphia and It Is Feared Later Reports Will Add to the List.

Boston, Dec. 27.—Sixteen lives lost and property damage to the extent of $5,000,000 is the record of yesterday's storm in and about Boston.

Twelve of these lives were lost in the wreck of the five-masted schooner Davis Palmer that went down last night on the outer harbor ledges.

The Davis Palmer was one of the biggest of five-masted schooners owned by the W. F. Palmer estate, of this city. She sailed from Newport News on December 21, for this port, with 4,000 tons of coal. She was sighted Saturday afternoon some 12 hours before the storm broke, off Pamet river, four miles south of Cape Cod light, and when the weather cleared today, she was not seen either in the harbor or bay.

When dawn broke today a lobster man at Hull discovered great masses of wreckage on the beach at Windmill Point, three miles inside of Boston light. In the wreckage he found a signal box containing a burgee with the name Davis Palmer on it.

It is thought that the Palmer came into Massachusetts bay, was caught in a trap off the entrance of the harbor and was dashed to pieces on either the Graves or on the outer ledge.

The schooner was commanded by Captain McKown and manned by a crew of 12 men, most of whom were shipped in this city. She was built in Bath in 1905, and registered 2,287 tons net.

The three-masted schooner Nantasket, Captain John W. Small, lumber laden, from Georgetown, N. C., for Boston, went ashore on Sandy Hill beach, off Scituate, late yesterday, and the crew of nine and the captain were rescued. It is thought probable that the vessel will be a total loss.

There were four fatalities yesterday in Chelsea, where a tidal wave, bursting through the dyke along Island End river, flooded 80 acres of homes and forced 2,500 persons to flee, scantily clad, into the raging storm. Thirty-two cities and towns which were last night plunged in darkness owing to the cutting off of the electric light service, hope to have their lighting facilities restored by tonight.

The storm was easily the greatest that New England has experienced in 11 years. All along the coast phenomenal tides were reported. In many places sea walls were battered to pieces, boulevards ruined and clubs and houses along the shore destroyed.

In Boston the tide swept over the wharves, across Atlantic avenue and as far inland as the Chamber of Commerce. It is estimated that the damage in this section will reach at least $500,000.

The worst damage wrought by the storm was in Chelsea and Everett, where, it is believed, it will be several weeks before the tide gate on the island end of the river can be repaired and the flooded district reclaimed. Having escaped through the snow, scantily clad and many of them barefooted, the residents of the submerged section of Chelsea had to stand for hours in the blizzard waiting for wagons to take them to shelter. Hundreds of the homeless were taken care of in relief stations established in public schools and churches.

EIGHTEEN ARE KILLED IN GREATER NEW YORK

New York, Dec. 27.—Eighteen persons in and near New York perished in the Christmas blizzard or died through accidents caused by it. Six of this number died from exposure after being caught in snow drifts which they were unable to penetrate. Others were drowned and several were killed by trains.

Today New York and its vicinity is rapidly digging itself from under cover of the 10-inch snow fall. By noon traffic conditions approached something like the normal as the results of the labors of nearly 10,000 men in the employ of the city, and the traction lines, while steam railroad conditions were rapidly improving all around.

Wire communication, which was badly interrupted during the worst of the blow, was again fairly good today except to New England points. The Western Union had a few wires working to Boston, but the Postal wires to that city were all down, and telephone lines had to be utilized to get in roundabout touch with the Massachusetts capital through Portland, Maine. Wires to the west and to New York state points were working fairly well.

The storms effects were severely felt by the poorer classes of the population. Blockades on railroads created a shortage of food supplies, and a consequent increase in prices, which contributed to the hardships of the poor.

Shipping felt the storm's effect seriously. While no heavy loss is reported from any one wreck, small craft in numbers suffered damage, dragging their anchors and being driven ashore. The wrecking of the freight steamer Sound Thurman off Tome River, N. J., and the sinking of the schooner Mary Ann Kirby in Long Island Sound, were the worst of the wrecks, but neither was attended with loss of life.

Off shore the storm does not seem to have raged so furiously. While incoming trans-Atlantic liners report hard weather, none seem to have been badly damaged. Coastwise steamers have been coming in nearly on time. Sailing vessels either hugged port, or, for the most part, kept out well clear of the shore. There are fears, however, for sailing craft caught near the land when the storm broke and unable to put out to sea.

WASHINGTON CUT OFF FROM NORTHERN CITIES

Washington, Dec. 27.—Not one train had reached Washington from New York, since the storm of Christmas eve, up to noon today. This was not due to conditions about Washington, but to the tie-up of railway traffic in the vicinity of New York and Philadelphia. No Sunday newspapers of New York or Philadelphia have reached Washington, nor have the Monday morning papers yet arrived.

The first train in from New York was expected this afternoon about 3 o'clock. It left New York this morning about 8 o'clock on the Pennsylvania railroad and was due here at 1:33 p. m., but delay between New York and Wilmington will detain it an hour and a half beyond the scheduled time of arrival. Between Baltimore and this city trains have been delayed somewhat, but no great inconvenience was experienced.

Another snow storm began in Washington about 1 o'clock this morning. It was light and the weather bureau officials said it would pass off by tonight and would not be heavy enough to interfere with traffic to any extent. It extends over the Ohio river valley and is moving eastward, but probably will not reach New York before some time tonight. It is the belief of the weather men that the storm of today will not complicate conditions in Philadelphia and New York and the vicinity of those cities.

The official report of the weather conditions at 8 o'clock this morning says:

"The great storm of the last three days is passing off the Canadian maritime provinces, but there has been another general fall in pressure in the interior, accompanied by light snows over the northern provinces. In the south, southwest and the extreme central west the weather was fair. It is considerably warmer in the central valleys and the southwest, and somewhat colder in the lake region and the Atlantic states, with freezing temperature to the interior of central Florida. The weather will be cloudy and unsettled tonight and Tuesday from the lake region and the upper Ohio valley eastward, with occasional, though mostly light snow."

MANY MILLS CRIPPLED BY PHILADELPHIA STORM

Philadelphia, Dec. 27.—There were five deaths in Philadelphia as the result of the storm, and general business was seriously disturbed. Hundreds of mills and other establishments, employing thousands of persons, were either shut down or working with as low as 10 per cent of their normal force of employes. The street car service remains badly crippled, slow progress being made through the snow drifts. All lines running to the center of the city are practically at a standstill with the exception of the Market street subway.

The railroads reported a general improvement in train service, although local traffic is still seriously impeded. On the Pennsylvania railroad trains are going west one hour late, to New York more than 30 minutes behind the schedule, and trains to Washington and other points south are leaving here one hour late. The Pennsylvania's lines in southern New Jersey are open, but no schedule is being maintained. Trains in all directions have been shortened and the heavier ones are being drawn by two locomotives.

The railroad officials expect that all through trains will be running practically on or near schedule time by tonight, but suburban traffic will not become normal for a day or two.

STOLE TO WIN HUSBAND

Crippled Girl Robbed Her Father's Bank.

Chicago, Dec. 27.—An unusual story was outlined today in the opening statement in the trial of eight Italians, who are accused of conspiring with crippled 17-year old Angelina Schiavone to rob her father, a widely known Italian banker.

In his argument Assistant State's Attorney Fleming told the jury that Francisco Schiavone, uncle of Angeline, three years ago, told the girl to get all the money she could from her father's bank, bring it to him and he would save it for her and when she had a snug amount she could marry his son Michael.

The girl was employed in her father's bank and, it is alleged, that her thefts aggregated $30,000. When the money from the bank was found in her possession last winter, she told her object in taking it and declared that being crippled she feared she would be unable to marry and so had tried to win a husband with her father's money.

Michael Schiavone, who is lame, is five years the senior of his cousin Angeline. The eight defendants to the conspiracy charge are all relatives of Pasquale Schiavone, the banker. Angeline was also indicted and will have a separate trial.

SLAY HIGH OFFICERS

Karpoff, Chief of Russia's Secret Police, Blown to Pieces With a Bomb.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 22.—Colonel Karpoff, chief of the secret police of St. Petersburg, was assassinated early today. He had been enticed to a modest apartment in a remote street of the Viborg district, and there was blown to pieces by a bomb, exploded, supposedly, by his host, Michael Vosskressensky, who had leased the rooms a few days before.

The murderer rushed into the street following the explosion, and was captured. An assistant of Karpoff's, who had accompanied him, was severely injured.

Karpoff was appointed from Baku, where he had been chief of the secret police. There have been several convictions of bomb makers recently.

English Official Is Killed.

Bombay, British India, Dec. 22.—Arthur Mason Tippetts Jackson, chief magistrate of Nasik, in the presidency of Bombay, was assassinated by a native while attending a theatrical performance last night.

The motive for the murder is supposed to have been a wish for revenge upon the magistrate who had recently sentenced a criminal to life imprisonment.

Nasik is a hotbed of sedition. Jackson had been in the British Indian service since 1888.

Premier Stabbed to Death.

Seoul, Korea, Dec. 22.—Premier Yi, the head of the Korean cabinet, was stabbed and fatally wounded today by a Korean, Yie Chaim Yong.

The attack occurred at 10 o'clock in the morning. The assailant was a young Christian who was for many years a resident of the United States. The premier was riding in his jinriksha when the assassin came up with a long kitchen knife in his hand. He drove this twice into the abdomen of the premier and once into the latter's lung. He then turned on the premier's jinriksha man, whom he stabbed and instantly killed.

The assassin was immediately arrested. He is a youth of about 20 years and is believed to be a member of a political secret society. The premier was removed to the hospital, where he died.

Yi was always credited with fostering anti-Japanese sentiment in Korea. He bitterly opposed the friction among the Koreans which favored annexation to Japan and refused to present a petition for annexation to the Korea emperor. Notwithstanding Yi's known sentiments in regard to the relations between Japan and Korea, Marquis Ito regarded Yi as an honest and conscientious patriot and refused to listen to the premier's repeated requests that he be allowed to resign his office.

Premier Yi was formerly minister of education in the Korean cabinet. He became prime minister in May, 1907, when a reconstruction of the cabinet followed a five-hour audience that Marquis Ito, the Japanese resident, had with the emperor Yi was regarded as a firm and competent officer, but his efforts to carry out the policy of the new administration met with continual opposition from his political adversaries.

Another Premier Wounded.

Bucharest, Dec. 22.—A workman today fired three shots at J. J. C. Bratiano, the Roumanian premier and minister of the interior. One of the bullets struck the minister, slightly injuring him. His assailant was arrested.

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Send us $4.20 and we will at once express 12 Full 16-oz. Bottles of our pure, mellow, 100-Proof Straight LACKLAND KENTUCKY WHISKEY, guaranteed under the National Pure Food Law and pronounced by competent judges to be the finest, the most wholesome and most delicious whiskey ever distilled. Remember, this is not a blend compound or imitation, but a pure, straight, 100-Proof whiskey and guaranteed so. This is the same fully matured whiskey which is so highly recommended by physicians for medicinal purposes on account of its purity and full strength. No better whiskey to be had.
After you receive the whiskey and drink one full bottle and put it to any test you desire, if you do not say that it is the finest whiskey you ever tasted, regard

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TWAIN'S DAUGHTER

Miss Jean Clemens Is Victim of Epileptic Attack.

Redding, Conn., Dec. 24.—Miss Jean Clemens, daughter of Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain), was found drowned in a bath tub in Mr. Clemens' home here today.

It is believed that Miss Clemens suffered from an attack of epilepsy while in the bath, and was drowned while in a convulsion. She had suffered from epilepsy for a number of years. Speaking of his daughter's death, Mr. Clemens said:

"My daughter Jean passed from this life suddenly this morning at 7:30 o'clock. All the latter half of her life she was an epileptic, but she grew better latterly. For the past two years we considered her practically well, but she was not allowed to be entirely fgree. Her maid, who has served us 28 years, was always with her when she went to New York on shopping excursions and such things. She had very few convulsions, and those were not violent. At 7:30 this morning a maid went to her room to see why she did not come down to her breakfast, and found her in her bath tub drowned. It means that she had a convulsion and could not get out.

"She had been leading a very active life. She spent the greater part of her time looking after a farm which I bought for her, and she did much of my secretary work besides. Last night she and I chatted later than usual in the library and she told me all her plans about the housekeeping, for she was also my housekeeper. I said everything was going on smoothly, that I thought I would make another trip to Bermuda in February and she said put it off till March and she and her maid would go with me. So we made that arrangement, but she is gone, poor child. She was all I had left, except Clara, who married Mr. Gabrilowitch just lately and who has just returned from Europe."

Miss Jean Clemens was one of the two surviving daughters of Mark Twain, and was the one most intimately associated with his recent literary work. The other daughter, Clara, recently married the Russian pianist, Ossip Gabrilowitsch. This left Miss Jean as the remaining member of the family with Mr. Clemens. The daughter was the constant companion of her father. She was a young woman of varied accomplishments having traveled widely and lived for a time in Germany. Her literary tendencies followed those of her father, and she had his vivacity of manner and to some extent resembled him in personal appearance. Her tastes were literary rather than social, so that she did not often appear at social gatherings. Her devotion to her father was shown only yesterday, when she personally telephoned a statement from her father, dismissing the report that he was dying. Miss Clemens at that time spoke affectionately of her father's present good health, and made cheery reference to this happy family condition at the holiday season.

Receipt That Cures Weak Men -- Free

Send Name and Address Today —You Can Have It Free and Be Strong and Vigorous.

I have in my possession a prescription for nervous debility, lack of vigor, weakened manhood, failing memory and lame back, brought on by excesses, unnatural drains or the follies of youth, that has cured so many worn and nervous men right in their own homes—without any additional help or medicine—that I think every man who wishes to regain his manly power and virility, quickly and quietly, should have a copy. So I have determined to send a copy of the prescription, free of charge, in a plain, ordinary sealed envelope, to any man who will write me for it.

This prescription comes from a physician who has made a special study of men, and I am convinced it is the surest-acting combination for the cure of deficient manhood and vigor-failure ever put together.

I think I owe it to my fellow man to send them a copy in confidence, so that any man, anywhere, who is weak and discouraged with repeated failures may stop drugging himself with harmful patent medicines, secure what, I believe is the quickest-acting, restorative, upbuilding, SPOT-TOUCHING remedy ever devised, and so, cure himself at home quietly and quickly. Just drop me a line like this: Dr. A. E. Robinson, 2068 Luck Bldg., Detroit, Mich., and I will send you a copy of this splendid receipt in a plain, ordinary sealed envelope, free of charge.

8 KILLED IN EXPLOSION

Open Lamps Carried by Employes Imperil 800 Lives.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 24.—Messages from Herrin, Ill., told of the recovery today of the bodies of W. T. Pierce and five companions, whose open lamps caused a gas explosion last night in which eight men were killed at Mine A of the Chicago & Carterville Coal company. The men went into the mine against the order of the mine managers and the advice of the miners, according to the company. Pierce was to make a survey of an abandoned section of the mine where there had been a "squeeze," to determine the feasibility of retimbering.

Within five minutes of the first reports of the explosion the miners in the vicinity of the accident were started toward the surface and on the return trips of the cages, rescuers were lowered to where the catastrophe occurred.

James Guinney, superintendent of the mine, and Robert Hueston, manager, headed the first relay of rescuers. Despite the black damp which flowed into the chambers adjoining that in which W. T. Pierce, the mine engineer, and his party were killed, these men went into the workings. After sending to the surface three unconscious persons the rescuers next found the bodies of Snyder, Greeco and Romeo, miners.

The efforts of the rescuers to penetrate more deeply into the workings were repulsed by increasing banks of after damp and they were forced to retreat, leaving the bodies of Pierce and his companions.

The damage to the mine cannot yet be accurately estimated. The colliery is one of the oldest in this section and few accidents have occurred in it.

Pierce, the engineer, who lost his life, studied his profession at the engineering school of the University of Illinois. He was formerly a federal inspector of government work on the Mississippi river.

CHEER THE NEW KING

Belgians Give Royal Couple Boisterous Greetings.

Brussels, Dec. 23.—Albert I, King of the Belgians, with his queen, Elizabeth, made a state entry into the capital from Laeken, this morning. Cannon boomed forth a royal salute, church bells rang out merrily, and hundreds of thousands of loyal subjects lined the route of the regal march, crying "Long live Albert!" and "Long live Elizabeth!"

When the procession arrived at the chamber, where the oath of ascension was to be taken, the successor of Leopold II was given a notable reception by the assembled senators and deputies. A feeble attempt to make a Republican demonstration failed miserably. At every discordant note a fresh outburst of cheering drowned the voices of the malcontents.

King Albert's speech from the throne was an eloquent tribute to Leopold I, and to his uncle, the late King Leopold II. He declared that the latter had performed a prodigious work in Africa, with the constant thought of enriching the nation and increasing the economic resources of Belgium. The new monarch expressed his gratitude for foreign sympathy at the death of Leopold, saying that the special missions dispatched to yesterday's funeral testified to the admiration felt in other countries for the high qualities of the late king.

"We must continue our unshakable attachment to constitutional liberty and the love of independence, and thus hold sacred our patrimony while advancing toward the peaceful conquests in the fields of labor and science.

"In the Congo the nation wishes a policy of humanity and progress enforced. The mission of colonization cannot be other than a mission of high civilization. Belgium always has kept her promises, and when she engages to apply in the Congo a policy worthy of her, none has a right to doubt her word."

Intimates of the king informed the Associated Press today that the new monarch proposed to apply himself with all the resources at his command to the solution of the Congo situation and the development of that dependency. It is his great ambition to justify in the eyes of the world the sovereignty of Belgium over the Congo.

FIND NO MAN EATERS

Explorers Hoped to See Cannibals.

Nogales, A. T., Dec. 24.—The mystery and glamour surrounding Tiburon Island, Gulf of California, has been dissipated effectually through the return yesterday of seven American explorers who had passed through Nogales on October 18 on their way to explore the island, which they supposed to be inhabited by man-eating Seri Indians and to contain hidden treasure and rich mineral deposits. The party was under the leadership of Prof. Fayette A. Jones.

At Guayamas the explorers bought a boat, provisioned it for a three months' stay and proceeded up the gulf, landing at Keno Bay up the mainland. Here they were visited by 20 Seri men and women, who proved friendly and who informed them that there was nothing of value on the island. However, they crossed to the island, established a permanent camp and for five weeks prosecuted their explorations, finding no indication of anything of value or of great interest.

The island is 20 miles wide and 35 miles long, and is of volcanic origin. Good grass abounds and there is some running water. It contains no human beings, but hundreds of deer and myriads of wild pigeons. Inscriptions were found proving the visit there is 1905 of a rescue party in search of traces of the Grindell exploring expedition, lost the year before.

During the party's stay, the island was visited by former Congressman Conn, of Indiana, who is making a pleasure cruise in his private yacht Comfort.

GAS STIFLES HER MUSE

Former Toledoan Overcome While Writing Poetry.

Hutchinson, Kas., Dec. 23.—"So 1910 will be a joke, down the chimney, his head he will poke and see us all so well supplied, he will take a sneak himself to hide."

Here breaks off what came near being the last literary effort of Mrs. W. H. Mitchell, formerly of Toledo, who, as she had written this, got up from her chair, started to a bed and fell, overcome with gas.

Were it not for the eccentricities of an alarm clock and the work telephone operators, probably there would have been three fatalities at the home of J. H. Bowers, 227 Second avenue West, Tuesday. When Dr. Helymun arrived on the scene he found the three occupants of the house in an unconscious condition. He was obliged to work about six hours to bring Mr. and Mrs. Bowers to their senses, while Mrs. Mitchell remained in a state of coma until last evening.

When D. Heylmun arrived at the house, Mrs. Bowers was lying on a bed unconscious. Mrs. Mitchell was sprawling on the floor of the parlor unconscious, with her face cut in several places. Mr. Bowers was lying on the floor of the kitchen, just below the telephone, unconscious and with a deep gash in his lip.

Bowers is night engineer at the Larabee Mills. He retired about 10 o'clock yesterday morning, expecting to get up about 5. One door of his room was left ajar. At 6 o'clock Bowers was awakened by the ringing of the telephone bell, feeling sick. He went to the telephone and got immediate response. "Central, I want Dr. Heylum, this is 27."

Here his voice broke off. Central could hear a crash of the receiver, and then all was silent. Suspecting that it was an emergency case, "Central" soon located house No 27 on the line, and immediately called up Dr. Heylmun, telling him that it was probably an emergency case.

Last evening Mrs. Mitchell regained consciousness and was able to tell her experiences.

FAMOUS ACTRESS IS DEAD

Mme. Meta Illig Played in Three Countries.

Frankfort-on-Main, Dec. 27.—Mme. Meta Illing, the actress, died last night.

Mme. Illing was the wife of a physician of the German court. She appeared in Germany and Austria in emotional parts and was a member of the Lessing theatre in Berlin, the Thalia theatre in Hamburg and the Schauspiel Haus in Munich.

She cut short her German career to begin a new one in English and in 1906 appeared at the Berkley Lyceum, New York, in Magda, in English. Besides playing the title role, Mme. Illing was her own manager, her own stage manager and her own financial backer. Prior to this she played star roles in German in the west.

HANGED TO STEAM PIPE

Murderer Is Executed in Lumber Mill.

Hurley, Va., Dec. 27.—Hanged by a mob to a steam pipe in a lumber mill was the Christmas day ending of Henry Pennington, who, on Christmas eve killed Samuel Baker and seriously wounded Baker's wife and two children.

Pennington, who had been drinking, picked a quarrel with Baker and shot him while the latter was on his way to a Sunday school Christmas tree with his wife, his two children and a friend, Wyatt Meadows. Seeing that he had killed Baker, Pennington started to run away. Mrs. Baker called after Pennington and implored him to help her take the body home. The ruse worked and Pennington went back to the spot where his victim lay dead. Bent upon avenging the deed, Mrs. Baker grabbed Pennington's pistol from his pocket and shot twice at him. Her aim was bad, but she succeeded in wounding him in the hand and thigh. Pennington recovered possession of the pistol and then shot the woman and attempted to kill Meadows, who was running away, it is alleged, and the two children.

Pennington then fled, but was surrounded by a posse on the outskirts of the town later in the night. He was captured after an exchange of shots with the officers, who badly wounded him. Being too weak to stand the journey to the Grundy jail, 15 miles distant, over mountainous country, Pennington was locked up in the constable's house, but about 1 o'clock Christmas day it was thought advisable to remove him to a boarding house, where he was put under a strong guard.

Feeling against Pennington ran high and many threats of lynching were heard during the day. At midnight a band of about 100 was organized, the guard was overpowered and Pennington was taken to the engine room of a lumber mill near by and hanged to a steam pipe. The body was riddled with bullets and was then left hanging until morning, when it was cut down.

Baker was a son-in-law of "Aunt Betty" Justice and a brother-in-law of George Meadows, two of the victims of the famous sextuple murder here several months ago, for which Howard Little has been sentenced to die in the electric chair on January 6.

HAIR MAY COST HER LIFE

Woman Assaulted by Clipper in Serious Condition.

St. Louis, Dec. 27.—Mrs. William J. Ehlen, 28, whose five feet mass of blond hair has been the envy and admiration of St. Louis women for years, was knocked unconscious and shorn of her locks by an unidentified man as she was leaving her home for church yesterday. Her hair was sawed off close to the scalp with a razor.

Mrs. Ehlen was dragged, unconscious, into the hallway of her home and lay in that condition for an hour before she was found. Her condition is serious.

The attack was the third attempt in two weeks to steal Mrs. Ehlen's hair. She was stopped on the street on the previous occasions by a man. He first offered her money for the hair and the next time unsuccessfully attempted to clip off the tresses with shears.

CAN'T TRUST KING ALBERT

Catholics Fear Progressive Tendencies of New Ruler.

Paris, Dec. 27.—The Petit Republique prints a resume of an alleged cipher dispatch sent by Carlinal Merry del Val, papal secretary, to the nuncio at Brussels, saying that the accession of King Albert has created inquietude in Rome, where he is considered a lukewarm Catholic, with anti-clerical, even socialistic sympathies.

The cardinal therefore urges the papal nuncio to seek to surround the king with a Catholic entourage, in order to complete the work begun when the Catholics assumed power in 1884. This would be menaced if King Albert gave hope to liberalism and socialism.

According to thet same authority, Cardinal Merry del Val instructed the nuncio to confirm the marriage of King Leopold to Baroness Vaughan in order to tranquilize the Catholic conscience.

TO OPERATE ON KING

Condition of Alfonso Again Causes Grave Anxiety.

Paris, Dec. 24.—The Gil Blas today prints a private communication from Madrid stating that the condition of King Alfonso has created the gravest anxiety in court circles. Another operation is imperative.

Under the guise of departure on a hunting trip in Andalusia, his majesty will go to the palace of the Countess of Paris, at Sanlucar, where the operation will be performed.

WOMAN GETS 20 YEARS

Mrs. Wilhelm Sentenced for Murder of Husband.

Newark, N. J., Dec. 25.—Twenty years' imprisonment was the sentence yesterday upon Mrs. Mary Jane Wilhelm, recently found guilty of murder in the second degree, for the killing of her husband, Frank Wilhelm, a contractor, in February of this year. Nicholas Sica, Mrs. Wilhelm's alleged accomplice, is yet to be tried.

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LOOSE STORY IS PROVED

Cook's Records Said to Show Hand of Captain.

Copenhagen, Dec. 28.—The special committee of Copenhagen university, which investigated Dr. Frederick A. Cook's polar records, is now considering whether or not it will publish a second report, giving further details of its work. If the committee should decide to do so it will issue the report about the middle of January.

A member of the committee said today that some of the details of Cook's narrative of his expedition were fabricated and his papers showed that he had used calculations furnished by Captain Loose. The second report, he added, would present evidence to that effect.

35-MILE RIDE FOR FIVE CENTS

That Is Made Possible by Chicago Traction Merger.

Chicago, Dec. 28.—A thirty-five-mile ride for 5 cents will be made possible by the $70,000,000 merger of all the surface railway lines of the South Side.

According to figures given out by President Thomas E. Mitten of the Chicago City Railways Co., the average total number of passengers carried annually on the lines involved in the railway merger is 340,000,000.

Of this great number, it is estimated that 220,000,000 are cash fares and the remainder transfers. The various roads involved in the merger cover 407 miles of railway.

ECZEMA

CAN BE CURED. My mild, soothing, guaranteed cure does it and FREE SAMPLE proves it. STOPS THE ITCHING and cures to stay. WRITE NOW—TODAY. Dr. Cannaday, 243 Park Square, Sedalia, Mo.

Faces Trial for Life.

Madame Catherine Breshkovskaya.

LEAVES CELL FIRST TIME

Noted Woman Nihilist Is Given Chance to Talk With Lawyer.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 28.—After two years' confinement in the fortress, Catherine Breshkovskaya, who is to be placed on trial in February on the charge of being a member of the revolutionary organization, was today allowed her first conference with her counsel, M. Zarudny, for a discussion of the defense.

M. Zarundy said later that he had found Mme. Breshkovskaya in surprisingly good health, bright and cheerful, but utterly unreconciled to the government. She declined to ask for a transfer to the preliminary detention prison, and may possibly refuse to present a defense.

Nicholas Tschaikovsky, who will be tried at the same time on a similar charge, will present a series of alibis for the specific instances of revolutionary activity with which he is accused, and a denial of membership in the Social Revolutionary organization, although sympathizing with its aims.

The joint indictment found against Tschaikovsky and Mme. Breshkovskaya and served on them December 25, is a document of 58 pages. It describes the careers of the two defendants up to 1905 charging membership in the central revolutionary committee and citing articles showing that they advocated terrorism. A series of depositions of witnesses, mostly renegade revolutionists, is also submitted. They have to do with the alleged presence of the accused as delegates to the conferences of the central revolutionary committee in Finland, St. Petersburg and the provinces, in which plans for armed uprisings were discussed.

Tschaikowski is quoted as making speeches in favor of regicide, and Mme. Breshkovskaya as avowing participation in the preparations for the assassination of Von Plehve, Grand Duke Sergius and Constantine Pobedonostseff, procurator general of the holy synod. Both, it is alleged, were members of the peasants' union and incited agrarian disorders in various parts of Russia.

The indictment apparently charges Tschaikovsky with visiting the United States in 1906-7, to arrange for the shipment of arms to Russia and to collect funds. It cites the revolutionist organ in substantiation of this. It has developed that Tschaikovsky had in his possession an American passport under the name of John Smith, and cards bearing the name of "Professor Smith, Boston," when arrested.

PLAN BALLINGER PROBE

Taft and Adviser Favor a Joint Committee.

Washington, Dec. 28.—The forthcoming congressional investigation of the matters entering into the so-called Ballinger-Pinchot controversy was the subject of a conference today between President Taft and Representative Dalzell, of Pennsylvania, one of the Republican leaders of the house.

Mr. Dalzell said after the interview that the investigation would unquestionably be carried forward by a joint committee, composed of from five to seven members. President Taft has agreed with the leaders of the senate and house that a joint investigation, open to the public, will be the best means of thoroughly dealing with the matter.

Mr. Taft, Secretary Ballinger and all of the latter's friends, have announced themselves as in favor of that form and character of inquiry which will carry with it the greatest public confidence. It was reported today that Senator Nelson, of Minnesota, might be the chairman of the committee.

HARMON IS FOR INCOME TAX

Governor Will Ask for Legislature to Indorse Amendment.

Columbus, O., Dec. 28.—Governor Judson Harmon will urge the Ohio general assembly to indorse the income tax amendment to the federal constitution. He favors the amendment and will call attention to it in his message to the assembly. The governor said he took no stock in the argument used against the amendment that the federal government might inflict the tax unjustly.

FEAR FREIGHTER IS LOST

Agents Give Up Hopes for German Steamer Capua.

Hamburg, Dec. 28.—The German freight steamer Capua, with her crew of 23, has been given up for lost. The vessel belonged to the Sloman line and sailed from this port December 1 for Genoa. She was last sighted two days later. The Caupa was built at Glasgow in 1889 and registered 1,282 tons net.

WEDS PRESIDENT'S NIECE

New York, Dec. 28.—George Hogg Snowden, 26 years old, of Seattle, obtained a license at city hall today to wed Miss Louise Witherbee Taft, daughter of Henry W. Taft, brother of the President. The wedding will be held at the Taft home here December 30.

DENIES TOBACCO COMBINE

Cincinnati, Dec. 28.—Clarence Le Bus, president of the Burley Tobacco society, in his answer to the suit filed against him and the society by the E. O. Eshelby Tobacco company, denies that the society is a conspiracy or combination in restraint of trade.

ZELAYA TO THANK DIAZ

Says He Will Remain Six Months in the Capital of Mexico.

Santa Lucrecia, Mexico, Dec. 28.—The private car on which former President Zelaya is proceeding to Mexico City passed through here today. The deposed dictator is due at the capital tomorrow morning. He says he will remain six months, and will personally thank President Diaz for his favors.

Zelaya is accompanied by a number of his political associates, including his former secretary of war. The members of the party shows considerable nervousness, which was particularly noticeable while passing through the streets of Salina Cruz before the departure last night. They had many uncomplimentary remarks about the American consul and vice consul at Managua. Just before taking the train the party requested an introduction to the American consul at Saline Cruz, C. Ludlow Livingstone. The political situation was not discussed, Mr. Livingstone not having received any instructions from Washington.

Still Talk of Arrest.

Washington, Dec. 28.—The fact that Zelaya has sought refuge in Mexico is not regarded in official circles as at all conclusive that he will escape punishment for his crimes in that country. The United States government has never taken any steps whatever for the apprehension of Zelaya or to prevent his leaving the country. It preferred to proceed with deliberation, knowing that should his presence in Nicaragua be required at any time to answer for his misdeeds his person could be secured with little or no difficulty.

Secretary Knox, in his letter to the Nicaragua charge in this city, Mr. Rodriguez, made it clear that in connection with any demand this government might make upon Nicaragua in the way of reparation for the shooting of the two Americans, Cannon and Groce, there might be included, in addition to a money indemnity, a demand that the person or persons found guilty of the murder of the two Americans should be tried and punished for their crime.

The question of extradition in a case of this kind was settled many years ago, and there are several cases cited where criminals have been surrendered by the nations where they had been given asylum, even when there were no extradition treaties.

One of the most notable of these was that of the Spanish army officer, Arguelles, who in 1864 captured a shipload of slaves which was being sent to the United States. For this act he was rewarded by the Spanish government, but it developed later that he had sold a number of the slaves, and, fearing arrest and punishment for his act, fled to New York. The Spanish government asked the United States to surrender him for trial, which, under President Lincoln's orders, was done, as a matter of comity between nations. President Lincoln in a communication to congress on the subject laid down the principle that a nation was never bound to furnish asylum to dangerous criminals, or to those who were offenders against the human race.

Should, therefore, the United States demand of Nicaragua the punishment of Zelaya there seems to be little doubt that any nation where he may have taken refuge will, on the showing which the United States will be able to make, willingly surrender him for trial and punishment.

Doesn't Agree With Knox.

Mexico City, Dec. 28.—Ignacio Mariscal, minister for foreign relations, does not agree with the Washington view that Zelaya's surrender as a prisoner can be demanded. Minister Mariscal said that he held that Zelaya was answerable only to the people of his country and in the capacity of the official position which he held and not personally.

Senor Mariscal denied a story from Managua that Zelaya was virtually a prisoner in Mexico. "He is not a prisoner," said the minister, "and we have not specifically agreed that he should not return to his country. Tacitly, we recognized his government while he was at its head and we must recognize the government of his successor. To allow him to return to Nicaragua we recognize would be to foment trouble for the new government. He is free, however, to go to any other country he may choose.

"As to responsibility for his person, we have assumed none. We are naturally responsible for his acts while a guest in this country and would not knowingly permit him to conspire against the government which succeeds him. We have no formal agreements with any government, or person, with respect to him or his person or acts, neither have we been asked to make such an agreement."

Admiral Visits New President.

Managua, Dec. 28.—Rear Admiral William Wirt Kimball, in command of the American warships at Corinto, arrived at Managua yesterday on a special train. The admiral was accompanied by George T. Weitzel, secretary of the American legation at Panama, and two naval aides. The American officers were in uniform, and the object of Admiral Kimball's visit was to pay an unofficial call on President Madriz. A great crowd gathered at the station and gave them a cordial greeting, after which they drove to a hotel in the presidential carriage. Several American flags were displayed and although there was no demonstration, considerable excitement prevailed.

It was rumored about the city that the visit might mean the recognition of President Madriz by the United States. Admiral Kimball, however, was emphatic in his assertion that he called on the president only in his private capacity. He refused to permit the gorgeously uniformed aide, whom President Madriz sent, to ride on the box of the presidential carriage.

President Madriz, as a private citizen, last evening returned Rear Admiral Kimball's call. Emissaries from the various parties were closeted during the afternoon with Admiral Kimball, who also had a long conference with David Arellane, the representative of the conservatives of Granada.

MADMAN CURED BY SURGERY

Sanity Restored When Bone Pressing on Brain Is Removed.

St. Louis, Dec. 28.—Patrolman Thomas F. Cuddihee returned to his home yesterday, his sanity restored. He had been at the City hospital for three weeks, where part of his skull had been removed.

Two years ago he was hit on the head with a club by a negro. The blow changed him from an officer of the law with a gold medal for bravery into a man who sought to kill his wife and children.

He had been treated at the state insane asylum and had been discharged as cured when he again sought to harm his family. It was then decided that an operation would be necessary. This was done and the bone which had pressed on the brain was removed.

Cuddihee will rest at his home a few weeks before returning to his beat.

KNOX NOW AFTER DIAZ

Cleveland Man Is Held Without Trial in Mexican Jail.

Washington, Dec. 28.—The state department is after Mexico with a sharp stick for holding in jail, without trial, a member of the Order of Railway Conductors, whose headquarters are in Cleveland. The case is similar to that of Joseph Wood, whose appeal for aid was sent to Senator Burton by W. E. Futch, president of the insurance department of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers at Cleveland.

James A Cook is held at Guadalajara, where he is denied bail. November 28 Ambassador Thompson asked the Mexican government for information, but none was forthcoming. The demands for action by the Order of Railway Conductors, of which Cook is a member, are insistent.

The affair may become an international complication. Cook is accused of robbing freight cars. The state department has sent the following note to the ambassador:

"What reply has been received, if any, to the embassy's note to the foreign office dated November 29, regarding Cook? His long imprisonment, without trial, causing considerable agitation in various part of the United States and arousing not a little criticism and unfriendly feeling. The department would consider it most unfortunate, which feeling Mexico will no doubt share, if the disposition of this case were such as to afford occasion for undue agitation in this country. The President is being importuned to take action and has asked the department for report. You may informally show this cable to the minister of foreign affairs."

The foregoing note is of a sort to cause a foreign government to sit up and take notice. It betrays a measure of dissatisfaction that suggests that Mexico is not regarded in the American state department as particularly more considerate of American interests than Nicaragua has been.

The case of Cook is stated in some detail in the memorandum given out at the department today. About Aug. 26 last, Cook, a railroad conductor on a branch of the Mexican National railway system, was arrested with three brakemen on his train, charged with complicity in robbing freight cars. Freight packages had been thrown off the train on three occasions as it was passing a certain point. The car seals were not molested.

Two Frenchmen and a Spaniard were arrested for picking up the goods on each occasion and selling them. Their arrest was made just before the third robbery, and on this occasion the goods were left by the side of the track. The three brakemen were arrested first and then Cook was summoned to testify against them. He was locked up, refused bail and is still in jail.

EMERGES FROM THE FLOOD

Boston and Vicinity Once More Above Water.

Boston, Mass., Dec. 28.—In southeastern New England today train service more nearly approaches the normal, the tangle in the telegraph and telephone lines was partially unsnarled, and persons who were driven from their sea coast homes by the big tides of the past two days, had a chance to return today.

Five hundred families in Chelsea, whose homes were flooded Sunday through the breaking of a dike and the inrush of the sea, were still the beneficiaries of the unexpended balance of the fire relief fund of April, 1908. The state armory, recently built, was turned into a house of refuge, and from 1,500 to 2,000 persons were cared for there and at other institutions, both state and city. The tide still sweeps twice a day through the broken dike, and submerges the district where these people reside, and until it is stopped up their houses will be uninhabitable.

HENEY FILES LIBEL SUIT

Bases $250,000 Action on Letter in New York Newspaper.

New York, Dec. 28.—The formal complaint in the damage suit of Francis J. Heney, of San Francisco, against William H. Crocker, the California millionaire, for $250,000 on an allegation of libel, was filed here yesterday.

Mr. Heney bases his action on an open letter bearing Mr. Crocker's name, which appeared in a New York evening newspaper December 3, in which Mr. Crocker defended his action in first supporting Heney in the San Francisco graft prosecutions and later withdrawing his support.

ATTACKED BY PACK OF WOLVES

Illinois Man Fights Them Off With Heavy Whip.

Chicago, Dec. 28.—A pack of eight wolves attacked Henry Lund and his horses yesterday while he was driving through the woods near Montgomery, Ill., according to a story he told on arriving home.

The wolves first attacked the horses, severely biting them and then attempted to leap into the sleigh. Lund fought off the pack with a heavy whip and his horses, bleeding and exhausted by a long gallop over heavy roads, finally reached a clearing where the wolves were frightened away.

Farmers organized a party to hunt the wolves.

ON WAY TO JERUSALEM

Head of the Holy Ghosters Is at Gibraltar.

Portland, Maine., Dec. 28.—The mystery about the movements of the Rev. Frank Sandford, head of the Holy Ghost and Us Society at Shiloh, Maine, was cleared up today, when a cablegram was received from him, dated at Gilbraltar. It stated that he was on the yacht Kingdom, with sixty passengers and crew, on their way to Jerusalem, after a pleasant voyage across, all on board being well. He did not intimate when he proposed to return to Shiloh.

PATTEN FIGHTS BULLS

Wheat King Is Forced to Sell Short.

Chicago, Dec. 27.—James A. Patten, whose recent "corners" in cotton and wheat have made him a dominant figure in the bourses of the world, is entering upon the most desperate speculative battle of his career.

Surounded on all sides by enemies and facing a rising market, he is fighting fiercely to keep down the price of corn. In spite of his most strenuous efforts, the cost of that commodity has risen from 10 to 12 cents above the price at which he sold it. He is known to be between 10,000,000 and 20,000,000 bushels of corn "short."

Unless there is a marked and radical change in market conditions in the near future, his enemies say, the erstwhile "wheat king" will by May 1 next be metamorphosed into the "corn goat" to the tune of $2,000,000 or more.

Already Mr. Patten has suffered huge "paper" losses. All indications point to these losses becoming greater instead of less. During the last month he has been playing Santa Claus to large numbers of farmers throughout the west and southwest. The farmers saw the Christmas money possibilities of the corn market about the same time that Mr. Patten did, but from a different angle.

That was last August. Mr. Patten sold corn and the farmers bought. Every since then the price of corn has been going up. With the beginning of the Christmas season the farmers began to close out their lines at profits of from 6 to 10 cents per bushel and Mr. Patten, with his brother George, who is interested with him in the deal, have contributed the money, which has lent a more than wonted air of yuletide cheer to thousands of rural hearthsides.

The farmers' closing out sales are, however, only a preliminary to what the bulls in the corn market confidently expect is to come. In the December campaign to keep corn down Mr. Patten and his brother sold with a lavish hand. They are still selling. Matters have come to the point where their selling has no effect on the market.

Meanwhile a group of corn "bulls," composed to a large extent of cotton men whom Mr. Patten squeezed severely in his recent incursion into the southern cotton market, have organized to keep the price of corn up, and have joined with the farmers in their effort to make things unpleasant for Mr. Patten.

THE MARKETS

Toledo Grain Market.

Toledo, Dec. 28.—Wheat showed effects of bullish cables by scoring an advance of about ¼c at the outset. Shortly after the opening, a slightly easier tone developed, which put the futures down a shade. Liverpool was strengthened by unfavorable reports from Argentina, where rains are said to be interfering with harvests. While receipts in the American northwest were fairly large, the strike situation was reported somewhat worse. At Chicago, receipts were 87 cars, the heaviest in some time. Toledo cash and December opened at $1.24¾, May at $1.27⅞ and September at $1.05⅝. The latter option was about the strongest of the list.

The afternoon session appeared practically a repetition of the morning developments. Toledo cash and December closed ¼c off at $1.24¼, May ½c lower at $1.27½ and July ¼c down at $1.04¾. Slow flour trade is having an effect on the market.

After opening steady to a shade firmer in sympathy with wheat, corn eased off about ¼c in the early hours, the depressing factor being more liberal receipts. The big Chicago trader reported caught short admitted having 5,000,000 May, no December. He believes accumulation of stocks will be felt soon. December opened at 65¼c, May at 68¾c; and July at 69¾c.

Corn closed about ½c down, the final prices following: Cash and December 64½c, May 67⅞c and July 67¾c.

Oats was steady, not only at the outset, but during most of the morning. There is not a great deal of interest in this grain, though trade appears fairly good. Toledo December started at 47c, May at 48¼c and July at 46¼c.

Closes in oats: Cash and December 46¾c, May 48c, July 46¼c.

Up till 10 a. m. clover seed lost about 5c. The tone was weak and a sagging tendency seemed predominant. Cash and December opened at $8.90, February at $9.00 and March at $9.05.

Receipts were 355 bags, against 690 a year ago. Shipments were 375 bags, compared with 500 a year ago. Cash and December closed 2½c off at $8.90, February 2½c lower at $9.00 and March 2½c lower at $9.05.

TOLEDO.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close Dec.28.	Close Dec.27
Wheat—					
Cash	1.24¾	1.25	1.23¾	1.24¼	1.24½
Dec	1.24¾	1.25	1.23⅞	1.24¼	1.24½
May	1.27⅞	....	1.26¼	1.27½	1.27½
July	1.05⅝	1.05½	....	1.04¾	1.05
Corn—					
Cash	....	....	....	64½	65
Dec	65¼	....	....	64½	65
May	68¼	....	....	67¾	68¾
July	68¼	....	....	67⅞	86¾
Oats—					
Cash	....	....	....	46¾	47
Dec	47	....	....	46¾	47
May	48¼	....	....	48	48¼
July	46½	....	....	46¼	46½
Clover Seed—					
Cash	8.90	....	....	8.90	8.92½
Dec	8.90	....	8.87½	8.90	8.92½
Feb	9.00	....	8.97½	9.00	9.02½
March	9.05	....	9.02½	9.05B	9.07½
April	....	....	....	8.95	8.95
Oct	....	....	....	6.70	6.70
No. 2	....	....	....	8.45	....
Rejected	....	....	....	8.27½	....
Rye—					
No. 2	....	....	....	78	77½
No 3	....	....	....	74	73
Timothy—					
Prime	....	....	....	1.85	1.85
Alsike—					
Prime	....	....	....	7.95	7.90
Dec	....	....	....	7.95	7.90
March	....	....	....	8.10	8.05

CHICAGO.

Wheat—					
Dec	1.19	1.19¼	1.17¼	1.18	1.18¼
May	1.11⅝	1.12⅝	1.10⅝	1.10⅝	1.11½
July	1.02⅛	1.02⅝	1.01⅝	1.01½	1.01⅝
Corn—					
May	63¼	64¼	62½	62⅝	63
May	67	67¼	66⅝	66½	67
July	67	67¼	....	66½	68¾
Sept	....	....	....	66½	....
Oats—					
Dec	44½	44¾	44½	44¼	44⅝
May	45⅝	45¾	45⅝	45½	45⅝
July	45⅝	....	....	43¼	....
Sept	....	....	....	40¾	....

NEW YORK.

Wheat—					
Dec	1.26¼	....	....	....	1.25
May	1.19	....	....	....	1.18⅝

ST. LOUIS.

Wheat—					
Dec	1.14½	1.15	....	1.14⅝	1.14½
May	1.12	....	....	1.11¾	1.11⅝

MINNEAPOLIS.

Wheat—					
Dec	....	....	....	....	1.10⅝
May	....	....	....	1.09⅝	1.10½

DULUTH.

Wheat—					
Dec	....	....	....	1.09⅜	1.10⅛
May	....	....	....	1.10⅝	1.11⅜

CHICAGO PROVISIONS.

| | | | |